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MOVEMENTS OF RED TROOPS

Policemen Stabbed

Two constables from the Mongkok Station were stabbed by a party of unidentified men, who attacked them as they were about to buy tickets outside the Mongkok Theatre last night.

Tam Kwong who was knifed in the back was taken to the Kowloon Hospital in a serious condition. His colleague, Pui Chi, was wounded on the left arm. Both were in slivies, being off duty.

Eye-witnesses reported that about six or seven men surrounded the constables and assaulted them.

No arrest has been reported yet.

ss. Hanyang Discharging At Red Port

The British steamer Hanyang is now discharging cargo at Taku Bar and is expected to return to Hong Kong with passengers and cargo, leaving tomorrow.

This is the official confirmation of prevailing rumours that the Butterfield and Swire vessel was loading cargo for the Chinese Red port before her departure here.

"Negotiations for the resumption of trade with the Reds were carried out by our Tientsin office and the ss. Hanyang was sent North as requested," a senior official stated yesterday.

Another B. and S. steamer, the Hunan, is due to sail today for Tientsin and the company is carrying cargo for the Red port.

No bookings for passengers will be accepted for the time being, until it can be ascertained what formalities and requirements are necessary for their disembarkation there.

On her arrival here, the ss. Hanyang will go into dock and will be replaced by her sister ship, the Pakhoi, which formerly operated on the North China run or a cargo ship but was recently converted to accommodate passengers.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the ss. Tientsin, which has been diverted from her regular Hong Kong-Bangkok run, is due to leave for Weihaiwei, near Chefoo. This could not, however, be confirmed officially yesterday.

Up to date, five Hong Kong steamers have cleared officially for the Chinese Communist ports. The Hanyang sailed on March 5 with Incheon and Pusan (South Korean ports) as her destinations.

The first official resumption of trade with the Reds was the Eastern Trader, which sailed on March 11. The Grand, Esang and Daniken cleared for Tientsin. The Lady Wolmer left for Weihaiwei.

Match Factory Workers Walk Out En Masse

About 200 workers of the Hong Kong Match Factory walked out en masse yesterday when their 24-hour ultimatum was disregarded by the management.

The strike began at 10 a.m. sharp—the deadline of three demands made by the workers on March 10.

It started with the dismissal of Wong Sau-ying on March 1. The management claimed the woman had committed many offences and that she was irresponsible.

The workers, on the other hand, claimed that she was dismissed because of higher level favouritism in favour of a certain Senior employee's friend who wanted a job.

The demands were that there be no occurrence of similar incidents, that Wong be reinstated and that full-time wage be given workers injured in the course of employment.

In a letter to the 16-man Committee, formed by the workers, the management explained the circumstances which compelled them to take the decisive measure to dismiss Wong.

ON OTHER PAGES

Page 2 Electric Company's Report

Page 3 Irish Mark St. Patrick's Day

Page 5 Crisis Develops in Palestine

Page 6 Budget Memorandum

Page 10 Inside Story Of Berlin Crisis

Communists Intensify Try To Close Yangtse S. CHINA UPRISINGS

Nanking, March 17.

Communist forces were today reported intensifying their preparations to close the Yangtse River, as the official Central News Agency warned of growing Red uprisings in South China.

General Teng Wen-yi, Government military spokesman, told a Press conference that General Lin Piao has moved 100,000 Red troops of his Manchurian command into the Hsuehchow region, 180 miles North West of Nanking.

These troops were reinforcing Red armies already massed along the Yangtse River.

Teng Wen-yi claimed that the main strength of Chen Yi's Central China forces were slowly moving into staging areas on the North bank of the Yangtse in preparation for an eventual river crossing.

The spokesman reported the Communists were constructing boats for the operation. He said posters in North Kiangsu towns urged an early crossing of the Yangtse and march on Nanking. These Communist preparations for a possible renewal of their Southern drive were reported as Nanking officials digested a Communist radio attack last night on the newly appointed Premier, General Ho Ying-chin. The Premier, who is now attempting to form a "peace cabinet" to deal with the Reds, was accused of being merely a front for Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

Damper

The Communist reaction to Ho Ying-chin's appointment, plus the absence of any definite Communist move to open peace negotiations, has put a damper on Nationalist peace hopes.

Neutral military observers said their only sketch information largely confirmed by Teng Wen-yi. They said four Lin Piao columns are now tentatively identified in the Hsuehchow region. This would place the total strength at the smaller figure of about 75,000.

Two of Lin Piao's columns were reported to be moving West, towards Kai-feng, indicating the possibility that the Manchurians may attempt a crossing in the Hsuehchow region, leaving the Shanghai-Nanking region to Chen Yi.

Everybody in Nanking is only guessing as to what the Communist time-table may be for a possible river crossing. If Red objectives cannot be obtained by negotiation, Government military men incline to believe that the Communists will cross, if at all, about the end of April.

Neutral observers also corroborated Teng Wen-yi's reports of other Communist preparations to cross the Yangtse, including that of the propaganda poster campaign.

While Government commanders watched Communist movements North of the Yangtse, they have begun throwing nervous glances to the south. Central News dispatches from Kunming reported rebel activity on the increase in Yunnan.

Central News said fear was being expressed that an attack may be launched on Kunming, which is the provincial capital. Other dispatches said telegraphic contact with the Southern part of the province has been lost.

No Let-Down

Dispatches from Changsha indicated no let-down in the spreading rebellion in Western Hunan. Rebel forces were said to be growing in strength with weapons taken from Government arsenals.

In other parts of South China, mainly Kwangtung and Hainan Island, about 70,000 disaffected elements of various types have been continually active.

Only large-scale fighting now reported North of the Yangtse is in Shensi Province. Teng Wen-yi said Communist forces have captured a number of towns North of the Provincial capital of Sian. The way the Communists have carried out the 13-point Peiping local peace agreement is now being studied by certain official quarters for some clue to determine prospects of an overall political settlement with the inner provinces.

Replacing Of U.S. Marines

Shanghai, March 17. The 700th Marine will sail from Shanghai tomorrow aboard the USS Bayfield for Guam to be replaced with a similar number of the Third Marines from Tientsin aboard the USS Chilton.

The Bayfield Marines have been stationed in Shanghai aboard the ship since December when there was considerable tension and much doubt about public order in Shanghai.

U. S. naval sources here said they had no information whether the Third Marines coming here would be replaced by new recruits from Guam or other Pacific bases. —United Press.

Communists, well-informed sources said today according to United Press.

The consensus among these official circles is said to be that the Communists virtually have violated entirely the Peiping agreement since it was signed more than a month ago. These circles are now watching closely the Communist daily broadcast for the Red leader, Ma Tse-tung's green light to begin negotiations but with increasing apprehension for the future.

One official source said if execution of the Peiping agreement were to be accepted as the pattern of Communist attitude towards future settlements, prospects of durable peace in China appeared to be extremely slim. He pointed out the most flagrant Communist violations of the Peiping agreement are the banning of the gold yuan currency from circulation and the suspension of several newspapers, which are clearly contrary to the provisions of the 13-point agreement.

Just A Ruse

The military spokesman, General Teng, asked for comment at the press conference this morning, said the Peiping local settlement was just a ruse invented by the Communists to decimate the government strength in North China. Fu Tso-yi, the North China commander who signed the agreement is now considered a Communist captive by the government.

The spokesman said the government last week abolished his rank and his headquarters. General Teng said General Fu did not obtain the prior approval of the government in concluding the local peace with the Communists and the North China commander only reported the 13-point agreement to the government after it was signed.

He said the joint administrative office, which was provided in the agreement, has never been actually established. General Teng said: "This is another Communist violation of the agreement."

The spokesman added the government was not planning to protest to the Communists against the violations because a protest would serve no useful purpose. In Shanghai, Chinese shipping interests were today arranging to send a delegation to Nanking to press the Central authorities for an early decision on the proposed resumption of navigation services between Shanghai and North China, it was learned.

Communist leaders are said to have already given permission for the re-opening of such services in recent negotiations in Peiping.

No specific departure date has yet been fixed, but the delegation

will probably leave for the capital as soon as General Ho Ying-chin completes the formation of his new Cabinet.

The delegates will also discuss the problem of Chinese coastal shipping rights with the Nationalist Government following recent reports that the outgoing Premier, Dr. Sun Fo, had given approval for foreign vessels to ply between Chinese ports.

Meanwhile, the Communist Red Army announced yesterday that the B. & S. steamer, Hanyang, arrived at Taku Bar on March 14 from Hong Kong and unloaded a large consignment of supplies, including chemicals, industrial raw materials, machinery and rubber tyres, totalling 550 tons.

Gold Yuan Drops

China's highly inflated Gold Yuan currency tumbled more than 20 per cent in value in terms of gold bullion and foreign currencies today, as the result of what financial operators described as worsening political and military situation.

Opening around GY7,700 to the U. S. dollar, it climbed to the all-time high of GY9,500, while gold spurred from GY388,000 per ounce to GY470,000.

The latest Gold Yuan nosedive occurred in the midst of a severe cash famine, caused by payroll requirements, which jumped more than 100 per cent, following the announcement of the March 15 cost of living index.

Local banks today limited cash withdrawals to between GY5,000 and GY10,000 per account—the price of a dinner.

The shortage of cash notes has given rise to new business, in which certain shops are accepting cheques for cash at a discount of between 10 and 15 per cent.

Commenting on the chaotic monetary situation here, one banker said that it seemed the printing press is failing to keep pace with the jet propelled inflation. —Associated Press, United Press and Reuter.

More Than 100 Unions, Associations Register

By the end of last year, 97 labour unions and 17 employers' associations had registered under the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance which came into operation on April 1 last, according to the 1948 annual report of the Hong Kong Government.

The report said that for a Colony, even with the population of Hong Kong the number of unions is exceedingly large. It is partly attributable to the excessive duplication of small unions jealous of their own interests.

There has, however, been a number of amalgamations and many of the unions are now working more closely together. Industrial unions are making strong progress. In this field, promises of good organization is more readily shown.

The report said that it will now be possible to go ahead with plans for trade union education, development of collective bargaining machinery, and construction of a sound, democratic and progressive union movement.

A series of trade union classes has already been held. On this experience, a new series is being drawn up in consultation with the Education department.

There is a long way to go before the unions can be regarded as in any way comparable to those in countries more advanced socially, but a start has been made, added the report.

Employers are also being asked to consider the advantages of collective bargaining machinery. It is hoped that during the current year progress can be made in this direction.

Commemorating St. Patrick's Day



St. Patrick's Day was commemorated in the Colony yesterday by the St. Patrick's Society of Hong Kong. A wreath was placed at the Cenotaph by the President of the Society, Mr. D. J. S. Crozier and members of the Committee in memory of Irishmen who died in the two world wars. —"China Mail" Photo.

(Story on Page 3)

Fall Of Rangoon Expected As Govt Loses Mandalay

London, March 17.

The fall of Rangoon, capital of Burma, is believed to be inevitable today now that the Karen rebels have taken Mandalay.

Fighting for their long-sought autonomy, the Karen insurgents now control the Kipling-esque road to Mandalay and the old Moulmein pagoda of Kipling's poem is ringed by barbed wire and machine-gun emplacements.

Communist forces meanwhile, have taken over the administration of the sacred city of Mandalay, which fell to the Karens on Sunday. It was officially stated here today.

Mandalay is 500 miles North of Rangoon. The Communists are led by No. Van Aung, one of the "30 Comrades" who went to Japan in 1940 with the late Aung San. According to today's statement, the Karens are grouped inside the famous Mandalay Fort which, before the war, housed the palace of the old-time Burmese Kings.

The palace was destroyed during the Japanese bombing of Mandalay in 1942.

Today's communiqué states that the Communists are encouraging open looting and extortion of wealthy people.

In a large-scale action between Government forces and Karens in the delta district of Maubin, the communists captured the Karens fired on naval boats and other river craft but suffered 200 casualties when their fire was returned.

Karens trapped at Insein, 10 miles North of Rangoon, have not yet replied to the Government's amnesty offer, the Associated Press was told officially today.

On Monday the Burmese Government promised a full amnesty if the Karens would lay down their arms by 8.00 a.m. on Thursday. Pamphlets setting out the amnesty terms were dropped from planes over the Insein area. The Government denied that the offer covered the Communists. —Associated Press.

PACIFIC QUAKE

Berkeley, March 17. The University of California recorded a moderately strong earthquake at 10.28 a.m. GMT an estimated 0.200 miles away, possibly in the South West Pacific area. The quake lasted one hour. —Associated Press.

THE WEATHER

At 0800 GMT 18 MAR, 1949, a Siberian anticyclone dominates China and is spreading slowly SE across the coast. Whilst another, much weaker, is moving SE from Honshu. Separating these systems is a depression which is approaching the sea of Japan from South Manchuria. Its trough extends across the Eastern Sea and Formosa to Tonkin. Today's Forecast: Moderate Easterly winds. Cloudy.

Yesterday's Weather: Maximum 71.0 deg. F. Minimum 55.8 deg. F. Rainfall Nil.

Rainfall Trace. Total since Jan. 1, 129.0 mm. 5.09 in. as against an average of 118.6 mm. 4.67 in. Readings at 10 a.m. 10.17.4 p.m.

Baro. at sea level 1013.0 m.b. 30.0 in. Humidity 80.0 % 79.0 % Wind Direction 102.0 95.0 Wind Force 6 6 Knots Tide 1.4 1.4 High 11.4 11.4 Low 10.0 10.0

Four More Nations Invited To Join N. Atlantic Pact

Washington, March 17.

The Atlantic pact powers today invited Denmark, Iceland, Italy and Portugal to join in signing the proposed North Atlantic security treaty.

The Governments of all those countries have been considering joining the alliance and it is expected here that all four will do so.

The State Department issued this statement on the bids:

"Invitations have today been issued on behalf of the Governments of Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the U. S. to the Governments of Denmark, Iceland, Italy and Portugal to join in signing the North Atlantic treaty during the first week in April."

It was understood here that each of the Governments to which the invitation was sent also was being provided a copy of the text of the treaty. The invited countries are those which drafted the treaty. It is to be made generally public tomorrow.

In Rome meanwhile screaming Italian Communist and Socialist deputies fought an "Atlantic pact battle" with rival groups on the floor of the Chamber early today and then opened a filibuster to delay a vote of confidence on the Premier, Mr. Alcide de Gasperi's policy.

After kicking, punching and struggling with Christian, Democrat and other deputies in a near riot during their debate on the Atlantic pact, more than 100 declarations of vote afterwards to explain their attitude.

Ministers took it in turns to occupy Government benches pending the vote, which was not expected until this afternoon, or 12 hours later than first thought likely.

Fighting broke out in the Chamber when the President (Speaker) gave the word to the Premier, Mr. Alcide de Gasperi to wind up the debate.

"Down With Pact"

Communists and Socialists immediately began a barrage of shouts, "down with the pact," "down with the government of war."

Unable to control the situation, the President left the Chamber, automatically suspending the session. After 15 minutes the session was resumed.

When the Premier continued his speech, there were more scenes of confusion, shouting and yelling, which almost assumed the proportions of rioting.

He was constantly interrupted from the extreme left wing benches by deputies chanting "fool," "liar" and "go out."

Women screamed insults. They were among the most militant of interrupters. Finally the Premier cut short his speech to about half its original length.

Labour Wins By-Election

London, March 17.

Labour won the Sowerby by-election. The figures were: Douglas Houghton (Labour) 18,006.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. Byran (Conservative), 16,454. The Labour majority was 2,162.

In Wetherby, the polls in an unexpected last-minute rush which boosted Labour in the by-election to an estimated 50 per cent of the electorate. Millworkers flocked to the polls after work to make up for light voting under gray skies earlier in the day.

After the polls closed, the ballot boxes were sealed and delivered to the town police station. —Reuter and United Press.

In Copenhagen, Mr. Gustav Rasmussen, Danish Foreign Minister, said today on his return by air from his Atlantic pact talks in Washington, that no plans were under way for the establishment of more United States bases in Greenland.

Mr. Rasmussen's return coincided with the receipt by the Danish Government of the official invitation to take part in the pact discussions.

He was expected to lose no time in reporting to the Government. A meeting of the foreign affairs committee has been called for Monday and the Danish Parliament is expected to hold a foreign affairs debate later next week, in which Denmark's final decision on joining the pact is expected to be taken.

In Brussels, the Premier, Mr. Paul Henri Spaak, today read the Pact to the foreign affairs committees of Belgium's Chamber and Senate, meeting behind closed doors.

He also reported on the recent meeting in London of the Western Union Consultative Council. The meeting lasted an hour. Members of the parliamentary committees said that there would be no communiqué. —Associated Press, and Reuter.

(For More News On A Central Part—See Page 7)



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IRISH IN HK MARK ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Reminders

Today

Services Dance, European YMCA, 8 p.m.
HK Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. annual meeting of shareholders, Jardine's board room, 12 noon.
Shanghai Worsteds Mill, Limited, annual general meeting, St. George's Building, 3.30 p.m.
HK Football Association Emergency Sub-Committee meeting, 5.30 p.m.
HK Government Senior Middle School, annual sports, Queen's College Playground, Causeway Bay, 1.30 p.m.

Coming Events

TOMORROW
HK University annual sports, Pokfulam Pavilion, 1.30 p.m.
Queen's College Old Boys' Association, annual dinner, at Queen's College, 7.30 p.m.
HK Volunteers' Association, Carriest Dance, Kowloon Cricket Club, 9 p.m.
Netherlands Hospital Grand Bazaar and Fete, official opening by Lady Grantham, 11 a.m.

SUNDAY

Toe H Club Musical Concert, Tai Hoi House, 40, Macdonnell Road, T. Road, 8.30 p.m.
HK Art Club, sketching class, members to meet at the Kowloon Star Ferry, 10.30 a.m.

Charged With Having Forged Certificates

Ng May was yesterday charged before Mr. F. X. D'Almada at Central with the possession of a forged inoculation and vaccination certificate on March 15.

Mui Wing-kee was charged with aiding and abetting Ng May. Inspector Mackay prosecuted and the two defendants were represented by Mr. M.A. de Silva.

According to the prosecution, when the ss. Thedane arrived in the Colony the Port Health Officer, Dr. Koo, went on board and examined the passengers' vaccination certificates.

Inspecting Ng May's certificate, Dr. Koo found that it bore a forged signature. Ng was taken to the police station and second defendant was arrested later.

Inspector Wong gave evidence of enquiries made by him. He said that he found the certificates to be false. Cross examined by Mr. Silva, Wong said that anyone can get the form by paying 50 cents.

Questioned as to the chop which was in the form, Wong said that it was not the genuine one.

Mr. Silva said that not only is he defending his clients but that he had a civic duty to perform.

He asked the magistrate to adjourn the case in order to find out whether the chop was a genuine one or not.

The case was adjourned to 10 a.m. today.

Women Workers In The Colony

There was an average of more than 23,000 women in semi-regular employment in the 1,610 factories and workshops registered during 1947 year, states the 1948 annual report of the Hong Kong Government.

The number does not include fairly large numbers of women employed as unskilled manual workers in the building trade as earth carriers, and stone breakers.

Women workers engaged by contractors are on a purely casual basis and, as numbers and persons fluctuate continually, returns are extremely difficult to obtain, said the report.

One-third of the women engaged in industry, work in the textile trade.

Previously, the textile trade was confined to weaving and knitting of piece goods. In 1948, several cotton spinning mills were set up and more are in process of construction. As these are large factories with much of the labour confined to women, the total number of women employed in the textile trade is likely to increase.

During the year, 1,161 factories and workshops were registered. Some 225 closed down during the year, including 12 small rubber factories.

Sprigs of Shamrock were distributed last night at St. Patrick's Ball—one of the functions organised by the St. Patrick's Society of Hong Kong to commemorate Ireland's Patron Saint. Earlier in the day, a short, simple but impressive ceremony was held at the Cenotaph where the President of the Society, Mr. D. J. S. Crozier, accompanied by members of the Committee, laid a wreath in memory of Irishmen who died in the two world wars.

The Cross of St. Patrick was flown from the Cenotaph flag-staff. The Society's wreath was a green laurel wreath with golden strings and a bunch of red poppies at the top corner.

Among those present at the Cenotaph were the Vice-Presidents: Surgeon-Captain T.N. D'Arcy RN, and Mr. F.G. Maundrell; Committee members Messrs. J.P. Feilly OBE, J.B. Griffin KC, W. La Bart Sparrow, C.E. Terry, R.E. Farrell, J.C.M. Grenham, B. Sheehan, J.B.P. Byrne, the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. F. Shanks, and the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Denis G. Sheariff.

The dinner and dance of the night was preceded by cocktails during which guests and hosts intermingled.

The Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, was met at the door of the Hong Kong Hotel by the President of the Society, and Mrs. D.J.S. Crozier, and Surgeon-Captain T.N. D'Arcy (Vice-President), and Mr. F.G. Maundrell (Vice-President), and Mrs. Maundrell, and was "piped" by pipers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (provided by the kindness of Lieutenant-Colonel D. M. Shaw, MC, DSO), to the foyer of the "Grippers" Lounge, where the "King" was played by the orchestra.

This was followed by the distribution of Shamrock, specially flown out from Watsons and Company Limited of Dublin by BOAC for the occasion. Members of the official party received their sprigs out of an old Irish silver bowl from the Hon. Shamrock.

Other guests and hosts were placed on all tables.

The President of the Society, Mr. D.J.S. Crozier presided at Dinner. At the official table sat The Governor, Mrs. D. J. S. Crozier, The Chief Justice, Sir Leslie Gibson, KC, and Lady Gibson, Major General F.R.G. Matthews, CB, DSO, Mrs. Madden, Air Commodore, A.D. Davies CBE, and Mrs. Davies, Miss A. Davies, The Chaplain of Hong Kong St. David's Society of Hong Kong, Mr. J.R. Jones, Captain A.F.P. Wilson (ADC to the Governor), Captain Fraser Harris (ADC to Major General Matthews), Lieutenant P. A. Poynter (Flag Lieutenant to Vice Admiral Madden), Flying Officer Harker (PA to Air Commodore Davies), Miss Margaret Carey, Mr. J.C.M. Grenham, Mr. F. Shanks (Treasurer) and Mr. Denis G. Sheariff (Secretary).

In accordance with the traditional custom of the Society, the President refrained from making a speech. Only the toast of "The King" and the memory of St. Patrick was proposed.

Irish Atmosphere

During dinner selections of Irish orchestral music were played which together with the decorations created Irish atmosphere.

The "Grippers" were decorated specially to the occasion. The pillars on the ground floor of the hotel were draped in green and on each was a golden Shamrock. At the head of the stairs to the "Grippers" was a Shield with the Arms of the four Provinces of Ireland (Leinster, Ulster, Connaught and Munster), under which was displayed the ancient Irish Welcome of "Cead Mile Failte" (a hundred thousand welcomes).

The entrance to the foyer was through an Arch over which was displayed the Old Flag of Ireland—a Golden Harp on a green background and the words "Erin Go Bragh" (Ireland for Ever).

Behind the President's seat at the official table were the Arms of his home town, Enniskillen, which was backed with the Union Jack and Cross of St. Patrick.

Behind the band was a large green hooded Shamrock on a golden curtain, and at the opposite end of the ballroom were the Arms of the four Provinces backed with St. Patrick's Cross, the flag and the Old Flag of Ireland.

The pillars of the ballroom were draped in green and in each was a coat of arms of an

Irish Town. It was noted that this year the names of the towns were in English so as to enable the Sassenachs to place them and also to avoid members of the Society embarrassment when asked to translate the Gaelic names.

The function was enjoyable and successful. The demand for invitations was such that the Committee had to announce several days before that no further applications would be considered to avoid spoiling the enjoyment of the evening by over-crowding.

Guests Present

There were more than 600 members and guests. Members of the Society present included Dr. J.P. Feilly OBE, Mr. J.B. Griffin KC, Surgeon-Captain T.N. D'Arcy RN, Mr. Justice E.H. Williams, Messrs. F.J. Maundrell, C.E. Terry, R.E. Farrell, W. La Bart Sparrow, F.C. Barry, M.H. Turner, B. Sheehan, J.B.P. Byrne, D.H. Blake, S.E.P. Lewis, G.D.S. Agnew, M.P. Keyes, H. Woulfe Flanagan, Mrs. E.M. Watson, Miss E. Kelly, Dr. J.H. McElroy, Messrs. W. McColl, J. Holmes, D. Grenham, E.R. Clemon, J.S. Joyce, J.F. Lunny, T. Cashman, D.H. Brown, M.G. Ryan, G.P. Murphy, G. Grilly, P. Pike, J. Hempey, P.J. O'Neill, J. O'Donovan, C.M.W. Crozier, P.M. McDonnell, W.J. McGill, J.F. Galvin, E.W. McCarthy, MacCabe, R.N. K.G. Stewart, O'Neill, G.W. Cussins, D. Hynes, D.T. Nolan, P.F. MacCade, R.N. Ryan, B. Moore, Mrs. A.F. Wicheil, Mrs. Colderar, Miss Henderson, Mrs. C.J.B. Pascoe, Mrs. K.E. Walker, Mrs. M.E. Joffe, Mrs. J.M. Stokoe, Mrs. Hausman-Tyrrill, Captain Moraghan, Captain Alton-Negel, Lieutenant Colonel E.M. Hennessy, Captain Lorkin, Major V. Keating and Lieutenant Commander J.B. St. Tyrrell.

CABARET DANCE AT KCC

A petition has been sent to the authority concerned.

A re-union of members of the Volunteer Association and their women friends will be held at the Kowloon Cricket Club tomorrow night.

Dancing will commence at 9 p.m. to the strains of the popular Embassy Sixtette. During the evening the company will be entertained by the Misses Estelle D'Almada and Angie Sousa, Gerald Almada and Frankie Vass, with Eddie Remedios at the piano.

Ernest Perry will give selections from his repertoire and Austin Spary will again demonstrate his versatility. A very lively evening is promised to a large crowd of "old Shamshulphites".

DECREE NISI MADE ABSOLUTE

Two Decree Nisi were made absolute by Mr. Justice Williams (Pulsne Judge) at the Supreme Court yesterday.

John Henry Simmons, who petitioned for the dissolution of his marriage with Theresa (or Teresa) Simmons, on December 11, 1948, on grounds of adultery, had his Decree Nisi made absolute. He was represented by Mr. F.J. Zimmern.

The other Decree Nisi made absolute was in respect of Charles Henry Blake, who had applied for dissolution of his marriage with Eugenia Blake on grounds of desertion on December 12, last year. The death of respondent is presumed from the date of the decree. The petitioner was represented by Mr. P.J. Griffiths.



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The Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, shown at the St. Patrick's Day Ball last night—'China Mail' Photo.

Personalia

The forthcoming wedding has been announced of Mr. John Peter Anderson, minister of 40 Stubbs Road, and Miss Rachel Landrum, accountant, of 497 Prince Edward Road.

Arrivals from Canton yesterday by the ss. Falshan included Captain J.W. Tinson, Mr. and Mrs. Robson, Mr. D.F. Clancy, Mr. Y.A. Wahan, Mrs. M.M. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. D.S. W. Groves, Miss F.C. Rishbee, Mr. M.A. Garrold, Mr. George F. Sauer and Mr. Jacques Roux.

Departures from the Peninsula Hotel on Wednesday included Mrs. F.J. Kell, Mrs. C. Tucker, Captain and Mrs. J.R. Johnston, Miss R.G.B. Fox, Mrs. K.R. Oakeshott, Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Welch, Mr. and Mrs. A.K. Dimond, Messrs. G.A. Smith, J.R. Rea, Jen Young-chuan, A. Gilman, Mr. H. Loyall, A.C. Spencer, M.S. Polla, C.W. Chan, C.W. Chen, E.S. Hooper, A.C. Verill, J.C. Mantley, J. Biras, L.J. Simmons, L. Beswick and K.S. Tsai.

New arrivals at the Peninsula Hotel on Wednesday were Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Campbell, Miss M.G. Lima, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lee, Messrs. J.H. Clark, W. Guggenheim, G.W. Moyers, S.H. Varnes, K.M. Carter, E.H. Mayers, J.S. Narula, and Miss M. Sasso.

Mrs. E.H. Glangan left for Shanghai yesterday by the ss. Hupeh.

HKDF Orders

Orders by Colonel L.T. Rile, Commandant, Hong Kong Defence Force, follow:—

Defender Course: This course for officers and senior NCOs will commence on March 29. Full details of syllabus, timetables etc. will be issued separately. No fee there have been 30 applications to attend. Any further application should reach this HQ before March 24.

Overseas Service Benefit Leave: As the recent financial year ends on March 31, anyone entitled to this grant who has not yet applied should do so immediately. The following details of the grant are published for information:—

Authority has been received to pay an ex-gratia grant equivalent to the allowance for Overseas Service Benefit Leave to those members of the HKDFC who qualify by service, were not repatriated, and who were demobilized in the Colony. The rate paid will be 34 on the basis of one day's full pay and allowances for every completed month of service. Volunteers who consider themselves eligible for this benefit are requested to submit their applications for payment to the Senior Staff Officer forthwith. They will be notified individually when to call for payment. Volunteers who were deemed to have been repatriated on December 31, 1947 and who have received the ex-gratia grant are not entitled to this benefit.

Photographs taken at the Corps Dinner, China Fleet Club. Photographs already ordered are available on application to the Administrative Officer.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor takes no responsibility for views expressed in letters by correspondents, and by no means necessarily agrees with them.

New Bungalows

Sir—It is noted that Government has earmarked \$725,000 from Public Funds for the purpose of erecting 25 bungalows of an attractive design at Black's Link.

As it is obvious that these bungalows are intended for European Civil Servants, may one ask what Government is doing for purely "local boys" who also come within the definition of "Civil Servants"?

Having regard to the fact that Government has already expended millions of dollars from Public Funds for the purpose of erecting flats for European Civil Servants at Lei Yuen Hill and in the vicinity of Admiralty House, perhaps this latest piece of extravagance on the part of Government for the benefit of European Civil Servants will convince our good friend Mr. H.O.W. Woodhead, CBE, that Hong Kong is run for the benefit of the "vested interests" and "privileged few".

It is sure a mighty good thing to have a white skin in Hong Kong.

SIMPLE SIMON.

Sir, This year Government proposes to spend HK\$45,000 on "25 bungalow apartments of an inexpensive but attractive design at Black's Link". The total cost is estimated by the Financial Secretary at HK\$725,000. He did not say for whom the bungalows are to build. His reference to the fact that the work is being pressed forward as rapidly as possible in order to relieve congestion in hotels leaves no doubt that the bungalows are to house Civil Servants—obviously not the "local" servants.

What about the housing problem of the Chinese and other non-European government employees who are living in overcrowded conditions? Are they not also entitled to some consideration? And what about the many bona fide Hong Kong residents who have been enduring similar hardships for the past four years?

When is Government going to make some attempt to solve the housing problem for all bona fide citizens who are in need of proper and suitable accommodation and who will contribute to the cost of the proposed 25 bungalows in taxes which are to be increased?

Unofficials in the Legislative Council fail to oppose this particular budget item or secure an assurance from Gov-

ernment that the housing problem in general will be tackled for the benefit of all bona fide citizens in need of accommodation, they will have completely lost whatever little confidence they still enjoy of the general public.

BITTER JOE.

Net Profit Of Land Company

The Hong Kong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, registered a net profit of HK\$1,745,240 last year.

The company will hold its annual general meeting of shareholders on March 28, at 12 noon in the board room of Jardine, Matheson and Company, Limited.

The Board of Directors propose to deal with the balance of HK\$1,835,209, available for appropriation, as follows:—

To pay a Dividend of \$3.00 per share, free of tax . . . \$1,200,000

To transfer to Building Development Fund Account . . . \$50,000

To transfer to Contingencies Reserve Account . . . \$50,000

To Corporation Profits Tax . . . \$50,000

To carry forward unappropriated . . . \$1,835,209

RUBBER CROPS

Details of the rubber crops harvested last month on the Malayan estates of J. A. Watling and Company, Limited, were released by the company yesterday. They are:

	February	Financial year to date
Alma	42,000	238,000
Ilau Anam	32,000	238,000
Chenoh	54,000	510,000
Ohme	40,000	499,000
Reyah	35,000	505,000
Bukit Tudu		
(Malay Estate)	181,000	1,122,000
Sarawak	44,000	850,000
Semambu	41,000	307,000
Shanah Malay	41,000	115,000
Bu Mangsa	12,000	29,000
Tanong	95,000	1,161,000

The annual general meeting of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce will take place on Monday at 4.30 p.m. at the Roof Garden, Hong Kong Hotel.

MILK-O!

All Pure EVAPORATED MILK

3 TINS FOR \$2.50

THE DAIRY FARM ICE & COLD STORAGE CO. LTD.
HONG KONG KOWLOON



A glass of this lovely sherry is a gracious welcome to your guests

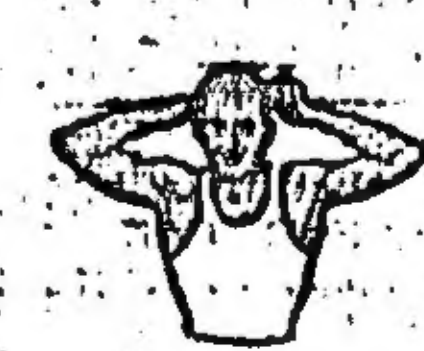
AGENTS:
GILMAN & COMPANY LTD.

Vitalis and the 60-Second Workout

To stimulate scalp...keep hair handsome



50 seconds to massage—Vitalis tingles! That's the alcohol in Vitalis stimulating your scalp. Different from those dressings that contain nothing but oil!



Won't dry your hair—the alcohol disappears, leaving a fine protective film of pure vegetable oils evenly distributed over hair and scalp.

Conditions your scalp—Prevents dryness, roots loose dandruff.

10 seconds to comb—What grooming! What natural lustre! No greasy look—Vitalis contains no mineral oil!



Sole Agents M. BATH-LENN HELLWIG

ADD-V-2

Do you intend travelling?
If so consult
a specialist.

N. James Penin
ASSISTANT MANAGER

TRAVEL DEPT.
THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CO. INC.
HONG KONG

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

20 Words \$2 for 1 insertion
\$1 for every additional insertion
10 cents every additional word per insertion
(Alternate Insertions 10% Extra)

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, PERSONAL \$5 per insertion of 25 words. 25 cents every additional word per insertion.

Classified Advertisements, accepted up to 5 p.m. for publication in the following day's paper.

Replies for the following Box Nos. are awaiting collection.

Nos. 770, 780, 782, 784.

Replies will be forwarded to the Advertiser if requested on the original form which should bear their name and address.

A suitable announcement will be inserted free of charge if Advertiser's requirements are satisfactorily answered.

POSITION VACANT

MUSIC Firm requires lady assistant for sales dept. Good knowledge of English and able to play on piano preferred. Apply in own hand writing, state age, nationality, and salary expected to Box No. 783 "China Mail".

WANTED KNOWN

FILM RENTAL SERVICE. General Savings. (A) 10mm Sound Hollywood Full-length Features. 12 or 24 features per year \$25.00 each. Deposit \$200.00. Starts April. (B) 8mm Films. 5 reels per week. 260 reels a year for only \$255.00, or 130 reels \$155.00. Starts May. Limited to 100 customers. Join now. Starline Films, 335 Wang Hing Bldg., 10 Queen's Road Central. Telephone 33035.

RUGS Manufacturers and Exporters Peking and Tientsin Carpets and Rugs. Peking Art Rug Company Room No. 8-9 Lucky Apartment, corner of Hankow and Peking Road, Kowloon.

CARPETS & RUGS—Genuine Peking and Tientsin, lovely designs and colorings, various sizes. Come and inspect at The China Rug Co., Kowloon Building, 4th Floor (Opposite Hong Kong Hotel), Queen's Road Central.

RENOMMEE DRESSES Imported & locally made dresses, suits, coats, "Dezire" hats, "Kissler" gloves. New shipment of Gabardine Dresses. 503, Victory House, 5 Wyndham Street.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

MAY BE BOOKED AT THE SWINDON BOOK STORE 25 NATHAN ROAD, TEL. 59327

DANCING LESSONS

BALLROOM DANCING—"Made Easy" for you. "LATEST VARIATIONS". Specialties—Rumba, Samba, Tango, Jitterbug. (Enquiries 1-3 PM)—TONY HUDSON, 512 China Building.

TO LET

MODERN Fully furnished flat, Causeway Bay. Furniture and fixtures to be taken over. Box 784 "China Mail".

FOR SALE

FOR SALE "Evestaff Miniplane" tropical insulated apartment model excellent condition for full information telephone 58828 between 9 a.m. and 12 a.m.

TAMARA May 503 Peninsula Hotel large apartment SUMMER FROCKS all sizes, reasonable prices. Orders taken for Wedding and Evening Gowns, Etc. European workmanship only.

PILOT RADIOS: Same reliable as war quality now obtainable at popular prices, made possible only by increased demand and large sales. World Reception Models from \$120 each. Obtainable at all the better dealers or direct from: Colonial Agencies, Teakoochoy Bldg., 14 Queen's Road, Phone 28310.

HONG KONG FILM AND THEATRE NEWS at 50 cents per copy. Obtainable at Leading Book Stores, Newspaper Sellers and "China Mail" Office.

HONG KONG DIRECTORY (1949 edition) containing Hong Kong, Govt. Offices, Hospitals, Schools, Churches, Institutes, Consulates, Services, Clubs, Agencies, Who's Who, Residences. It's the most up-to-date and most complete of all business directories in the Colony. NOW ON SALE at all leading book shops and "China Mail" Office.

CHINA MAIL PICTORIAL at \$200 per copy. Obtainable at all leading book stores and "China Mail" Office.

HONG KONG TRAMWAYS LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ordinary Yearly General Meeting of the Company will be held at the Offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, Limited, Hong Kong, on Tuesday, 22nd day of March, 1949, at 12 o'clock Noon, to transact the ordinary business of the Company.

And, NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that the Register of Members of the Company will be closed from the 8th to the 22nd day of March, 1949, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,

W. H. PATERSON,
Secretary.

Hong Kong, Feb. 22, 1949.

THE HONG KONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

The Seventy-sixth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of Shareholders will be held at the offices of the Undersigned on Friday, the 18th March, 1949, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

The Share Register and Transfer Books will be closed from the 4th March to the 18th March, 1949, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.

General Managers.
The Hong Kong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
Hong Kong, Feb. 25, 1949.

OFFICIAL NOTICE
PROPOSAL TO CHANGE
A SHIP'S NAME

WE, HONG KONG TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, LIMITED, Marina House, Hong Kong, hereby give notice that in consequence of maintaining company nomenclature we have applied to the Minister of Transport, under Section 47 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, in respect of the Motor Tug "FLOUNDER" of Philippine Registry, Gross tonnage 94.13 tons, Register tonnage 25.68 tons, heretofore owned by the Foreign Liquidation Commission and also by Luzon Stevedoring Company Inc., of Manila for permission to change her name to HKT "FLOUNDER" and to have her registered in the new name as owned by the Hong Kong Transportation Company, Limited, Marina House, Hong Kong.

Any objection to the proposed change of name must be sent to the REGISTRAR OF SHIPPING at HONG KONG within SEVEN days from the appearance of this advertisement.

Dated at Hong Kong, the 7th day of March, 1949.

THE HONG KONG TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

NATURALIZATION
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that MICHAEL BASIL ANTONOFF of Peninsula Hotel, Kowloon, is applying to the Governor for naturalization, and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of the facts to the Colonial Secretary, Hong Kong.

HONG KONG OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE SOCIETY

The Annual Dinner of the above Society is to be held in the Hong Kong Club at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday, 20th March, 1949.

The officers of the Society are:

His Excellency Sir Alexander Grantham, K.C.M.G.—President.

G. T. Rowe, Esq. (Oxon)
R. H. Hughes, Esq. (Cantab)

Hon. Secretaries.

H. S. Mok, Esq.—Hon. Treasurer.

Membership is open to men whose names have been at any time on the roll of any college at either University.

Will those wishing to attend the dinner please send their names to either of the Secretaries at the Colonial Secretariat Building, Lower Albert Road, as soon as possible before 22nd March, 1949.

Further details and tickets will be sent to individuals.

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER of the Companies (Reconstruction of Records) Ordinance, 1947,

and

IN THE MATTER of The Bible Book & Tract Depot Limited.

NOTICE is hereby given that the abovementioned company has lost its Memorandum of Association and that it is proposed to adopt a new Memorandum of Association.

A copy of the proposed new Memorandum of Association may be inspected at the office of the Company at Rooms Nos. 104 & 105 Queen's Building, 1st floor, Ice House Street, Victoria, in the Colony of Hong Kong or at the office of Messrs. C. Y. Kwan & Co. of No. 4A Des Voeux Road Central, Victoria aforesaid, the solicitors for the company, at any time during office hours.

Any person who objects to such proposed new Memorandum of Association should state briefly in writing the nature of the objections to such proposed new Memorandum of Association and should file the same with the Registrar of Companies, Supreme Court, Hong Kong, with the address for service within the Colony of the person objecting thereto not later than the 25th day of April, 1949.

Dated the 11th day of March, 1949.

C. Y. KWAN & CO.,

Solicitors for The Bible Book & Tract Depot Limited.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

CABARET DANCE

for members and lady friends

At Kowloon Cricket Club
Saturday, March 19th, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Subscription \$5 per person including light refreshments. Dress: Informal.

Service Auction Rooms

A. E. R. de Sousa, Auctioneer.
Auctioneers, Surveyors, etc.
Basement, French Bank Bldg.
Telephone 31857.

THE BANK OF CANTON, LTD.

Ordinary Yearly General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the ordinary yearly general meeting of shareholders of the company will be held at the Head Office of the company, 6, Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong, on Wednesday, the 23rd March, 1949 at 8.00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving and considering the reports of the Directors and of the Auditors and the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1948 and for the appointment of Directors and Auditors and declaration of dividends.

The Register of Shares of the Company will be closed from the 15th day of March to 23rd March, 1949 (both days inclusive) during which period no transfer of shares will be registered.

By order of the Board,
D. S. YUAN,
Chief Manager.

Hong Kong, March 9, 1949.

OVER EATING?



PLEASANT
RELIEF
With sparkling
ALKA-SELTZER.

Alka-Seltzer gives you the quick relief you want PLUS the alkalizer you need when overeating causes excess gastric acidity. Drop one or two tablets in a glass of water—watch it fizz, then drink it down. Pleasant-tasting. Not a laxative: Alka-Seltzer makes you feel fine fast.



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By order of the Board,
D. S. YUAN,
Chief Manager.

Hong Kong, March 9, 1949.

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"You'll have to check your umbrella, madam—I can't let a customer go in there armed!"

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay
The Authority on Authorities

HE HAS A SURE STOPPER

YOU MAY BE pretty sure that a man who doubled your No Trump game while sitting at your left with a marked weak hand has what he considers a positive stopper in the long suit you had bid. Hence, in your playing plan, it is well to figure out if you can, some way to get enough tricks without having to run that entire suit. Otherwise you may find at the end that what you originally added up to nine may aggregate only eight and leave you thwarted.

S J 5 2
H J 0 3
D K 10 4
C 6 4 2
S Q 7
H K Q 10
D 5 2
C Q J 9

(Dealer: East. East-West vulnerable.)

East South West North
1 S 2 C 2 H Pass
3 D Pass 3 NT Dbl

With South showing enough for an overall at the level of two West knew North could not have much. With such a thin double he should have reckoned. North would be sure at least to be able to stop a straight run of all the hearts. But apparently he did no such thinking. As soon as he won the third club lead, he attacked the hearts.

After winning the A, K and Q, he had the bad news from South's discard on the third one, two tricks in it?

that North still held the J. Then, too late, he switched to diamonds. The Q was led, the K covering, and he let it win since if he covered he had no re-entry for a finesse. North now scored his heart J and led the spade 2 to the A. The dummy was able to score the diamond A, J and 9, but that made only eight tricks. West had to give up the better with the spade 10 to the K.

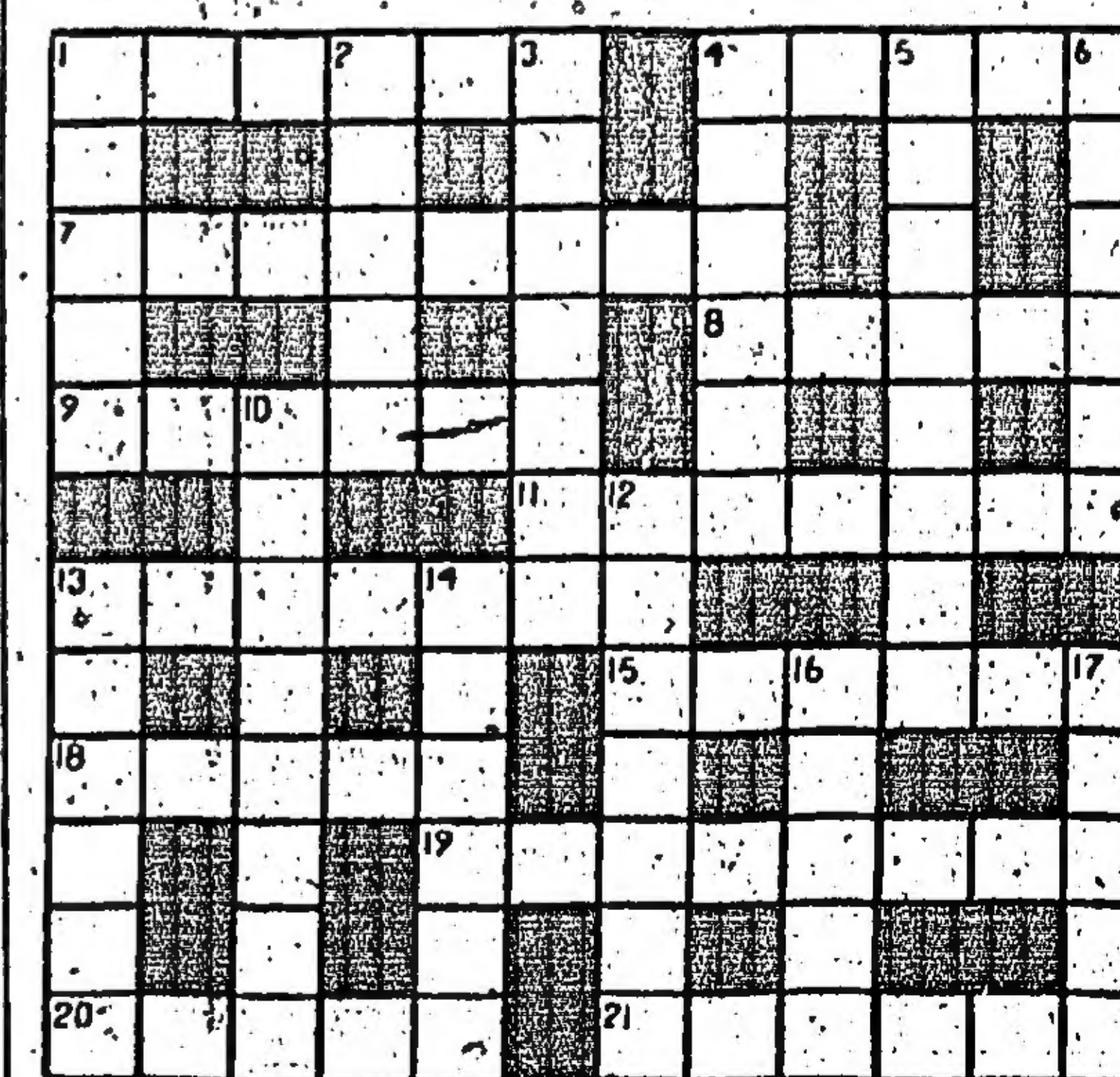
West should have protected himself against that series of events, if he had looked forward. He could have tried for all the diamond tricks, instead of giving up one, if he had retained his hearts for entries to his hand, so he could finesse diamonds twice. On taking the third club, he should have led the diamond Q, using the A when North covered. The heart A, K and Q would have put him in his own hand for a second diamond lead. This time his assignment would have been to finesse the 9 in the hope that North had the 10. This being the case, he then could have scored the diamond J and 7, and the spade A would have been the game trick.

That would have been hoping for a good deal, to find both the diamond K and 10 with North, but it would not have been hopeless, as was the heart run effort.

Your Week-End Question

What logic should tell declarer the most hopeful way to play a trump suit of seven cards to the king-jack-ten opposite two little ones, in order to avoid loss of two tricks in it?

A BRITISH CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

1 Ferocious. 15 Concord. 4 Scholar. 18 Mistake. 7 Plender. 19 Discipline. 8 Light craft. 20 Plan. 9 Powerful. 21 Heroic. 11 Example. 21 Myth. 13 Quietude.

Yesterday's Crossword

ACROSS—1 Grit, 4 Depress, 8 Real, 9 Beau, 10 Failure, 11 Abet, 12 Bow, 14 Reading, 17 Orate, 18 Spell, 22 Treason, 24 Rail, 27 Rede, 28 Compare, 29 Fate, 30 Idle, 31 Attends, 32 Rare.

Down

1 Acute. 12 Taking note. 2 Solitary. 13 Her side. 3 Flexible. 13 Simmered. 4 Summary. 14 Ordinary. 5 Royal lady. 16 Cake decoration. 6 Hidden. 17 Famous. 10 Endure.

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S WAR MEMOIRS: THE SECOND BOOK

THEIR FINEST HOUR

West African Invasion Plans

By Winston Churchill

ON the evening of August 3, 1940, I sent my general approval for landing Free French forces in West Africa. General de Gaulle, Maj.-Gen. Spears and Maj. Morion had evolved a plan in outline, of which the object was to raise the Free French flag in West Africa, to occupy Dakar, and thus consolidate the French Colonies in West and Equatorial Africa for General de Gaulle, and later to rally the French Colonies in North Africa.

On August 4 the Chiefs of Staff Committee considered the details of this plan as worked out further by the Joint Planning Sub-Committee, and drew up their report for the War Cabinet. The proposals of the Chiefs of Staff were based on the three following assumptions:

First, that the force must be equipped and loaded so that it could land in any French West African port;

Secondly, that the expedition should consist entirely of Free French troops, and have no British elements, except the ships in which it moved and their naval escort;

Thirdly, that the matter should be settled as between Frenchmen, and the expedition would land without effective opposition from the French troops. It soon became clear that the Chiefs of Staff required more British support than the Chiefs of Staff had contemplated. They represented to me that this would involve commitments large and more enduring than those which had been foreseen, and also that the expedition was beginning to lose its French character. Our resources were at this time so severely strained that this extension could not be lightly accepted. However, on August 6 I conferred with General de Gaulle, and at 11 p.m. on August 7 I presided over a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff Committee on the project. It was agreed that the best place to land the Free French force was Dakar. I stated that the expedition must be sufficiently backed by British troops to ensure its success, and asked for a larger plan on these lines.

Plan Approved

On August 13 I brought the matter before the War Cabinet, explaining that it went far beyond the original plan of a purely French expedition. The details of landing six different parties at dawn on the beaches near Dakar, and thus dispersing the efforts of the defenders, assuming there was no opposition, were examined by my colleagues. The War Cabinet approved the plan, subject to consideration by the Foreign Secretary upon the chances of Vichy France declaring war. Measuring the situation as far as I could, I did not believe this would happen. I had now become set upon this venture. I approved the appointment of Vice-Adm. John Cunningham and Maj.-Gen. Irwin as the commanders of the expedition. They visited me at Chequers on the night of August 12, and went through all the aspects of this doubtful and complex affair. I drafted their instructions myself. I thus undertook in an exceptional degree the initiation and advocacy of the Dakar expedition, to which the code name "Menace" was assigned. Of this, although I cannot feel we were well served on all occasions, and certainly had had luck, I never at any time regretted. Dakar was a prize, rallying the French colonial empire, a greater. There was a fair chance of gaining these results without bloodshed, and I felt in my fingertips that Vichy France would not declare war.

Our two dangers were now delay and leakage, and the first aggravated the second. At the time the Free French forces in England were of the order of 10,000 men, and the retraining Government of their country. They were ready to fire on their own fellow-countrymen, and accept the sinking of French warships by British guns. Their leaders lay under sentence of death. Who can wonder at still fear? I blame them for a tenderness of emotion or even for indecision.

The War Cabinet could give orders to our own troops without anyone but the commanders and the Chiefs of Staff circle having to them, while at the same time creating huge war industrial units in the Siberian wilderness. America has had its longest and toughest war on record, and it will be a long time before the public can be whipped up to sufficient enthusiasm, while the war factories of the middle Forties have been thoroughly transformed to the production of motor cars, refrigerators and radios, and would take almost as long again to revert to munitions.

No. While the intelligent observer cannot but expect another war in the next decade or so, the time is not yet ripe. While preparing for the inevitable, we can in our off-moments relax.

be informed of our intentions. But General de Gaulle had to carry his gallant band of Frenchmen with him. Many got to know. Dakar became common talk among the French troops. At a dinner in a Liverpool restaurant French officers toasted "Dakar!" Our assault land-craft had to travel on trolleys across England from new Portsmouth to Liverpool, and their escort were tropical kit.

They were delays. We had hoped to strike on September 8, but now it appeared that the main force must first go to Freetown to refuel and make their final police. The plan was based upon the French troops reaching Dakar in 10 days at 12 knots. It was found, however, that the ships carrying the "Menace" Transport could only make eight to nine knots, and this discovery was reported only at a stage of loading when the time lost in reloading into faster ships offered no gain. In all ten days' delay from the original date became inevitable: five days for the miscalculation of the speed of the ships, three days for unforeseen loading troubles, two days for the refuelling at Freetown. We must now be content with September 18.

I presided over a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff and General de Gaulle on August 20 at 10.30 p.m., and am on record as signing-up the plan as follows: The Anglo-French Armada would arrive at Dakar at dawn, aircraft would drop streamers and leaflets overboard, the British cruisers would remain on the horizon, and French ships would come towards the port.

An emissary, in a picket boat flying the tricolour and a white flag, would go into the harbour with a letter to the Governor saying that General de Gaulle and his Free French troops had arrived. General de Gaulle would stress in the letter that he had come to free Dakar from the danger of imminent German aggression, and was bringing food and succour to the garrison and inhabitants.

Completed By Nightfall

If the Governor was amenable all would be well; if not, and the coast defences opened fire, the British squadrons would close in. If the opposition continued, the British warships would open fire on the French gun position, but with the utmost restraint. If determined opposition was met with the British forces would use all means to break down resistance. It was essential that the operation should be completed, and General de Gaulle master of Dakar, by nightfall.

General de Gaulle expressed his agreement. On the 22nd we met again, and a letter was read from the Foreign Secretary to me disclosing a leakage of information. Exactly what this leakage amounted to no one could tell. The advantage of a power used offensively is that when a fleet sails no one can be sure where it is going to strike. The seas are broad and the oceans broader. Tropical kit was a plus no more definite than the Continent of Africa. The wife of a Frenchman in Liverpool, who was sur-

peeled of Vichy contacts, was known to be convinced that the Mediterranean was the destination of the troops which were gathering in the Moray. Even the word "Dakar," if bruited carelessly, might be a blip. At any rate, on August 27 the Cabinet gave their final general approval for going ahead. Our target-date was then September 10.

At 6.24 a.m. on September 9 the British Consul-General at Tangier cabled to Adm. North commanding the North Atlantic station, "a shore appointment at Gibraltar," and repeated to the Foreign Office. Following received from "Jacques?" French squadron may try to pass the Straits proceeding Westward for unknown destination. This attempt may be timed to take place within the next 72 hours.

The Admiral was not in the Dakar circle and took no special action. The telegram was repeated from Tangier simultaneously to the Foreign Office and received at 7.50 a.m. on the 10th. At this time we were under almost constant bombardment in London. Owing to the recurrent stoppages of work through the air raids, arrears had accumulated in the cipher branch. The message was not marked "important," and was only deciphered in its turn. It was not ready for distribution until September 14, when at last it reached the Admiralty.

A Second String

But we had a second string. At 4 p.m. on September 10 the British Naval Attaché in Madrid was officially informed by the French Admiralty that three French cruisers, type Georges Leygues, and three destroyers had left Toulon and intended to pass the Straits of Gibraltar on the morning of the 11th. This was the normal procedure accepted at this time by the Vichy Government and was a measure of prudence taken by them only at the latest moment. The British Naval Attaché reported at once to the Admiralty and also to Adm. North at Gibraltar.

The signal was received in the Admiralty at 11.50 p.m. on September 10. It was deciphered and sent to the Daily Captain, who sent it on to the Director of Operations Division (Foreign). It should have been obvious to this officer, who was himself fully informed of the Dakar expedition, that the message was of decisive importance. He took no instant action, on it, but let it go forward in the ordinary way with the First Sea Lord's telegram. For this mistake he received in due course the expression of their lordships' displeasure.

However, the destroyer Hotspur, on patrol in the Mediterranean, sighted the French ships at 6.15 a.m. on September 11, 60 miles to the East of Gibraltar, and reported to Admiral North. Admiral Somerville who commanded the Force which was based on Gibraltar, had also received a copy of the Naval Attaché's signal at eight minutes past midnight that same morning. He brought the Renown to one hour's notice for steam at 7 a.m. and awaited instructions from the Admiralty.

In consequence of the error of the Director of Operations Division, and of the delay at the Foreign Office upon the other message from the Consul-General, the First Sea Lord knew nothing about the passage of the French warships till Hotspur's signal was brought to him during the Chiefs of Staff meeting before the Cabinet. He at once telephoned the Admiralty to order Renown and her destroyers to raise steam. This had already been done. He then came to the War Cabinet. But through the coincidence of this failure of two separate communications—one from the Consul-General and the other from the Naval Attaché—and through lack of ap-



Just whisky, please. I can't stand this overtaxed soda.

You noticed of course that the budget made no provision for setting up a memorial plaque on the site when the 'Chickie' Club leaves. Keep your eye on government expenditure, advises a writer. What does he think we're grateful?

According to our errant printer, 'The American Regulations (Amendment)' Ordinance' was passed at the Legislative Council. Unfortunately, the proof readers didn't make the necessary amendment.

According to yesterday's reports, there is a serious crime in the U.S. every 18.7 seconds. One can just imagine the underworld sitting there grinding his teeth at 10 and 20 seconds go by; and he's run right out of ideas.

Fifteen portfolios, and everything was fine. Tough talking legislators left only nine. Nine little ministers left to have fun. Reds crossed the river—and then there were none.

The question now arises whether to refer rhetorically to Kulangsu Island as the Elba or the St. Helena of China's exile.

If the Japs get even that minor defence force they're asking for it. They won't be long before people overseas will be singing in a minor key.

Reports from England say that the eight-month-old National Health Service is generally regarded as a success. The patients are improving, but the doctors aren't feeling quite so well.

It is reported from Lake Success that the Dutch government may have to be investigated for UN activities.

All that remains is to ask Russia to join the Atlantic Pact and we'll be back where we started.

He is having trouble at "The helm of divided China." We always said he would need a tow home with a ship like that.

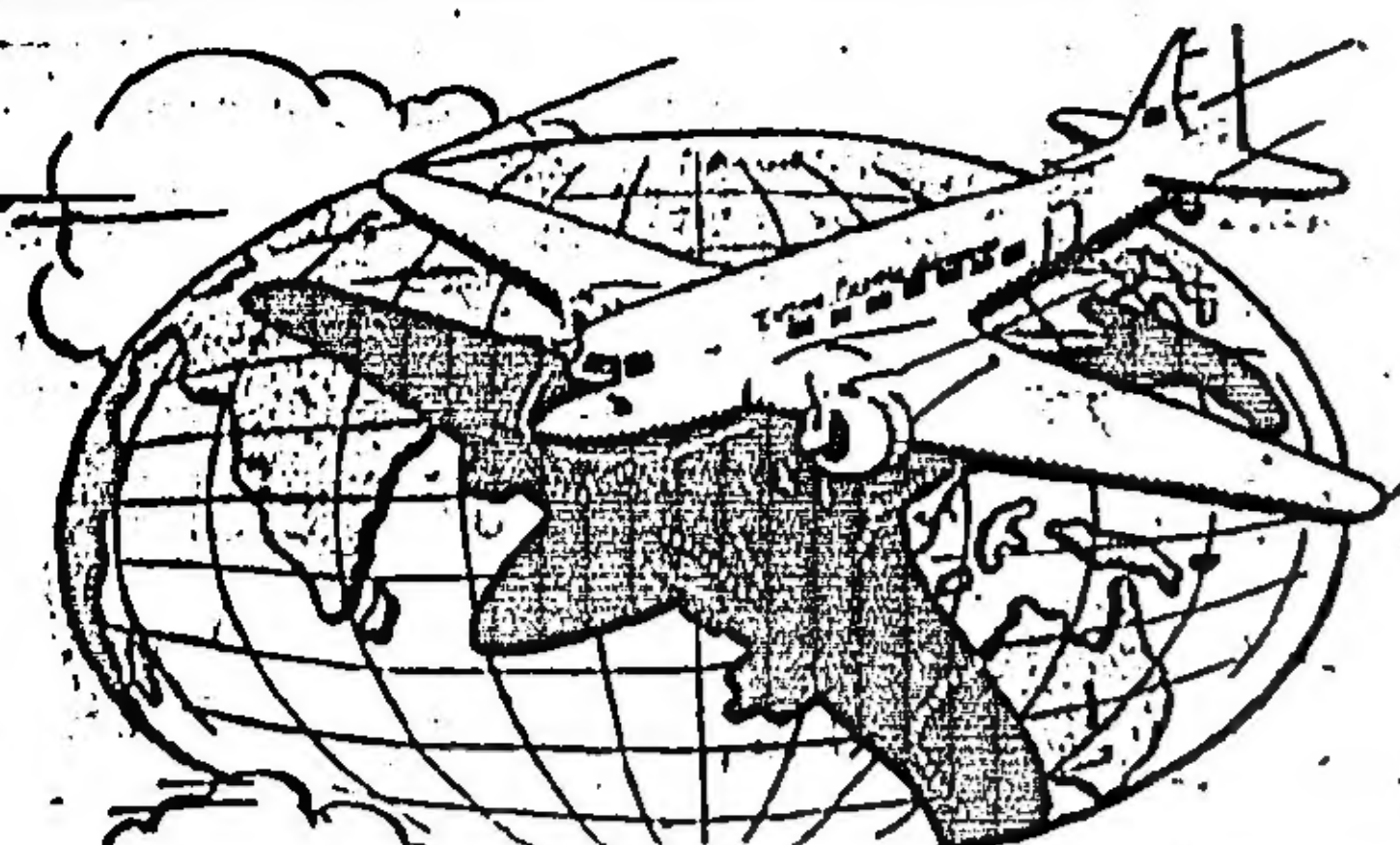
There are not many employers willing to pay a man good wages for just sitting about. He is being inundated with requests for their names and addresses.

"The legend of Mont Tremblant is that the name of the mountain means the 'trembling mountain.' Just an old wives' tale, probably.

precipitation in various quarters, all was too late. The War Cabinet, on being apprised, instantly instructed the First Lord to order the Renown to get in touch with the French ships, ask for their destination, and make it clear that they would not be allowed to proceed to any German-occupied ports. If they tried to go beyond Casablanca to Dakar, they were to be stopped. But the cruisers were never caught. A haze lay over Casablanca on the 12th and 13th. One of the reconnoitring British aircraft was shot down; reports about the presence of additional warships in Casablanca harbour were conflicting; and the Renown and her destroyers waited all day and night South of Casablanca to intercept. The French squadron, at 4.30 on the afternoon of the 13th, the Renown received an air report that there were no cruisers in Casablanca. In fact, they were already far to the Southward, steaming for Dakar at full speed.

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(To Be Continued Tomorrow)



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BY S.K. LEE

Lesson 31 (A)

Vocabulary:	
107. (yau) ,yau	In addition. Also. Again.
A Story:	
1. Gau, -shee, ,yau yut' gau	Formerly, There was a man.
yun.	
2. Kui 'hai ,yau-tsen' yun.	He was a wealthy man.
3. Kui ,yau hoh' daw' tseer.	He had a lot of money.
,yau hoh' daw' ook'	Many houses and
,yau hoh' daw' ngau.	many cattle.
4. Kui tseng'-doh' hoh' daw'	He employed many workmen
gung', yun, tung' kui	to work for him.
dzhoh gung'-foo'.	
5. Kui ,yau ,yau leung	He also had two sons.
gaw' dzai'.	
6. Gaw' ,daaye dzai' hoh'	The elder son was pleased
foon'-hay' ,dzhoh gung'-	to do (his) work.
foo'.	
daan'-hai, gaw' sai' geh'	but, the younger one was not
in foon'-hay' ,dzhoh.	pleased.
7. ,yau yut' ,yut,	One day, the younger son said
gaw' sai' dzai' dui' kui	to him:
wah:	
'Bah-bah', tsing' ,nay bay'	"Papa, please give me some
dee' tseer' ,ngaw lah'	money, because I want to go
yun', wai ,ngaw seung'	away for a trip."
hui'	
'dai-ye shue' ,kaang-	
bah'.	
8. Kui bah-bah' teng' mun	His father (hear him speak in
kui gom'-yeung' ,wah,	this way, then immediately
,dzau dzik'-huk' bay'	takes him plenty of money,
hoh' daw' tseer' ,kui,	because he liked him very
yun', wai ,kui hoh' lung'	much.
ye' ,kui ah'	
9. Kui yut' duk'-dah' dee'	As soon as he had got the
tseer' ,dzau hoh' gung'-	money, he was very pleased
hay' ,dai'-huk' hui'	and immediately went to
Shueung'-hoi'	Shanghai.

(To be Continued)

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HONG KONG?

Can you recognize where this picture was taken? The answer is in Page Seven.



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CRISIS DEVELOPING ANEW IN PALESTINE

Jews Allege Violation Of Truce By Arabs ISRAEL MOVING TROOPS

Tel Aviv, March 16.

A crisis, with possible military implications, is developing on the Central Palestine front. Israeli Foreign Office sources said they have information that Arab Legion forces are taking over front line positions in the Iraqi-held "triangle."

EUROPE GETS WAR JITTERS

London, March 15.

Europe got a bad case of war jitters today. There is a feeling here and across the continent that a diplomatic crisis with Russia is in the making.

The Western nations rushed defence plans so they would have some cards in their hand, if and when they have to sit down at the table with men from the Kremlin for a showdown.

No responsible statesman is predicting that armies will be on the march in the immediate future but there is an air of grimness in official statements and actions.

The developments were:

1. The five Western Union countries, Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, set up a master defence plan that calls for all of them to rearm as fast as possible and seek the United States to provide additional weapons.

Harold MacMillan, Conservative Member of Parliament, told the House of Commons that the hour of decision might come in July. He said if the world gets by that deadline there may be peace for six or seven years.

2. Iran snapped back at the Russians with the statement the Soviet-Iranian treaty of 1921 should be scrapped and the declaration that Iran should cast its lot with the West by making a military alliance with the United States.

3. Russia said that she has already developed the atomic bomb and gone on to bigger things.

4. The Italian press carried reports that mysterious planes are parachuting what seems to be war material in Northern Italy.

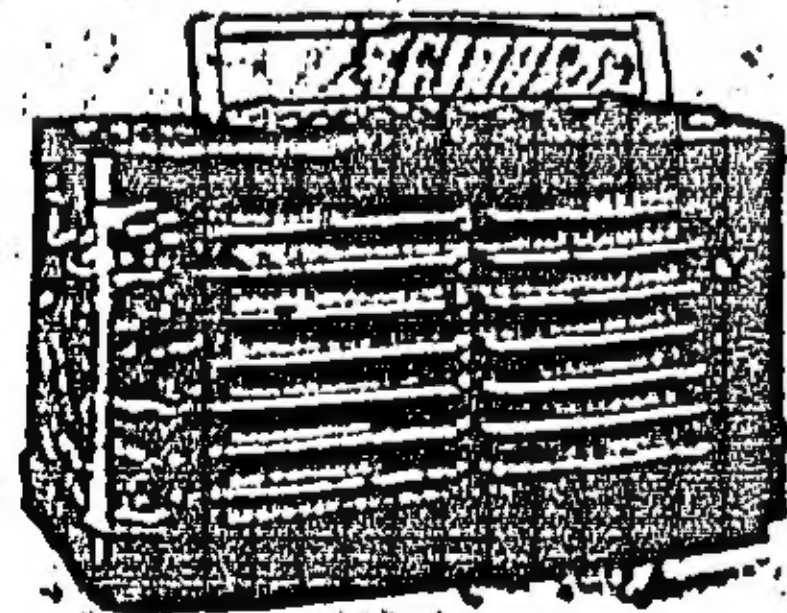
HORNER WANTS TO VISIT U.S.

London, March 16.

Mr. Arthur Horner, Communist Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, who hopes to attend the International Labour Coal Conference at Pittsburgh next month, is expected to apply to the United States Embassy here soon for permission to enter the United States.

A decision will rest with the United States Justice Department. Although the American Government will not normally allow Communists to enter the country, there have been exceptions.

Dr. Hewitt Johnson, the "Red" Dean of Canterbury, visited the United States recently.—Reuter.



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CHANGES IN RN COURTS MARTIAL

London, March 16.
Commonwealth Governments are to be consulted about proposed changes in the court martial system of the Royal Navy, Viscount Hall, First Lord of the Admiralty, stated today.

He was explaining to the House of Lords why it is necessary to appoint a Commission to inquire into the subject when another commission has already recommended changes for the Army and Royal Air Force.

Discipline in the Navy, he said, differs from that in the other services. Before changes can be made there must also be consultations with Commonwealth Governments, who had adopted British Naval discipline, he said.—Reuter.

The United States has replied to inquiries from the Portuguese Government about the position of Portuguese bases in relation to the proposed pact and is believed to have assured Portugal that the pact will carry no commitments for them to grant bases to provide transit facilities involved in the occupation of Germany and Japan.

The Portuguese anxiety is believed to have stemmed from the fear that other North Atlantic powers, such as France, might require the use of bases in peacetime. It is expected that the United States reply will satisfy Portugal on this issue.

It is not expected here that under present conditions the North Atlantic powers will agree to the admission of Spain to the Alliance, and it is not thought that Portugal will press her request, made known yesterday, at the exclusion of Spain from the pact.

The Danish Foreign Minister, Dr. Gustav Rasmussen, made it clear before he left Washington yesterday that he will recommend the pact to the Danish Parliament.

PORTUGAL TO BE CHARTER MEMBER OF DEFENCE PACT

Washington, March 16.

European diplomats here are confident that Portugal, Denmark, Italy and Iceland will join the North Atlantic Pact in time to become charter members.

The formal founding signature of the treaty will take place here in the first week of April.

TURKEY'S STAND ON SECURITY

Ankara, March 16.

The Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr. Necmeddin Sadak, told the National Assembly today that Turkey is continuing her talks and contacts in Britain and the United States.

She is trying to find out what measures can be adopted with a view to safeguarding peace and security in the area to which Turkey belongs, he said.

He said that Mr. Ernest Bevin, the British Foreign Secretary, with whom he exchanged views in London last month on a possible Mediterranean regional pact, had confirmed to him that the Anglo-Turkish Alliance is an essential element of British policy.

Referring to the Atlantic Pact, Mr. Sadak said there is no question of Turkey's joining it as she does not border on the Atlantic, but she welcomed any treaty contributing to peace and security.

"We firmly believe that peace and security could be ensured in Europe by regional pacts within the framework of the United Nations Charter," Mr. Sadak added.—Reuter.

MOSCOW ATTACK ON VANSITTART

London, March 16.

Moscow Radio declared today that Lord Vansittart, former diplomatic adviser to the British Government, wants a new war and a more merciless policy towards people who disobey British rule.

Commenting on Lord Vansittart's speech in the House of Lords, charging that the East European Diplomatic Services in London are being used as instruments for Soviet propaganda, the broadcaster said: "Lord Vansittart demands that new force should be put into BBC broadcasts and greater use be made of traitors who fled from their countries to escape punishment."—Reuter.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HONG KONG?

Photograph shows the Church Guest House.

MISSING SHIP

London, March 16.

The Committee of Lloyd's passed a resolution today posting as missing the Danish steamer, Anna Rita, 405 tons last heard of on January 7 when she sailed for Stockholm, with a cargo of rye.—Reuter.

Plan To Increase Rice Production

Bangkok, March 17.

The International Rice Commission ended its first session on Wednesday, adopting plans to increase production in the Orient.

The Commission, sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation, decided to hold its next meeting in Burma between January 15 and February 15 next year.

Other proposals adopted call for better distribution of rice and more accurate statistics on production.

The increased production measures are collection of standard varieties, establishment of a committee on rice breeding, collection of data for control of disease in both seedlings and field crops.

The Commission also contemplates experiments in Siam, the Philippines and possibly other countries in mechanized rice farming.

Sweden's Probable War Role

Stockholm, March 16.

The Swedish Commander-in-Chief, General Helge Victor Jung, said tonight that Sweden could fight alone a delaying defensive action for a considerable period, but would be dependent on foreign help in the event of war.

There is no reason to consider foreign help impossible, he said in a speech in Kristinestad. He considers Sweden's defence a vital factor in preventing the occupation of Scandinavia, before Denmark and Norway are armed.

The General said that all ideas that an attack on Sweden must lead to quick occupation are fundamentally wrong. In a struggle against a superior force, Sweden's defences would be favoured by the country's topography, its great area and its large inaccessible regions.

General Jung said it had been asked whether Sweden could expect help from the Western powers after the latest political developments.

He thought the fact that Denmark and Norway are being allowed to join the Atlantic Pact shows that the Western powers attach considerable importance to Scandinavia in the event of war.—Reuter.

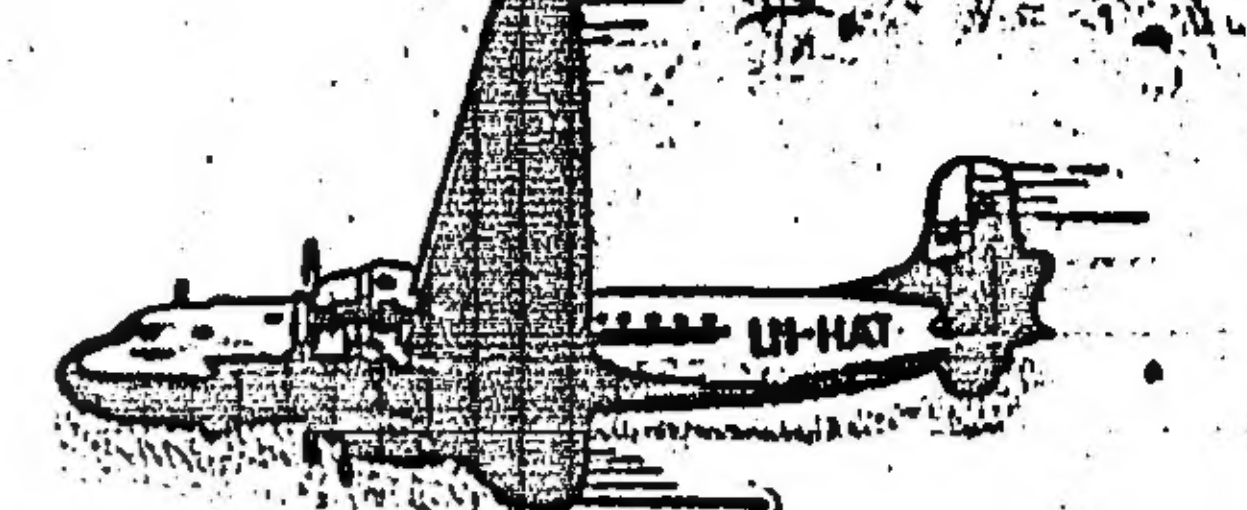
FRENCH CONVOY ATTACKED

Saigon, March 16.

Indochinese Nationalists attacked a French army convoy North of Tonkin and 22 persons were injured and nine trucks destroyed, it was announced today.

The French announcement said that most of the casualties were Indochinese.—Associated Press.

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MEMORANDUM ON THE 1949-50 BUDGET

Twelve Millions On Rolling Stock

The sum of \$12,000,000 has been earmarked out of Loan expenditure for new rolling-stock for the Kowloon-Canton Railway, the Financial Secretary, Mr. C. G. S. Follows, reveals in a Memorandum on the Colony's Budget.

The Memorandum also reveals that an additional sum of \$5,500,000 has been set aside for the new cost of living allowances which were introduced on January 1, 1949.

Extracts from the Financial Secretary's Memorandum:—

Head 1. His Excellency The Governor

Estimate 1949-50	\$231,297
Revised Estimate 1948-49	200,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	218,979
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	240,574

The post of Custodian, the occupant of which has been seconded to duty as a supernumerary Bailiff in the Supreme Court, has been abolished. One post of No. 1 Boy has also been abolished and replaced by a House Coozie. The opportunity has been taken to show in detail the posts occupied by the household staff of Government House. The result of all these changes is a small increase in personal emoluments of \$4,918.

Recurrent expenditure during 1948-49 was found to be underestimated in some cases and increases in incidental expenses, Publications, and Upkeep of Vehicles have been made. The rehabilitation of Fanling Lodge was completed during the year and an additional \$3,000 is provided for under Fuel, Light and Power for this additional building. The total increase on Other Charges amounts to \$7,400. The net increase of expenditure on the head is \$12,318.

Head 2. Agriculture Department

Estimate 1949-50	\$730,228
Revised Estimate 1948-49	270,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	440,885
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	106,720

The large increase in Other Charges of \$11,500, is largely explained by the provision of \$50,000 to cover labour charges in respect of an expanded programme of farm and animal husbandry work and of \$32,500 for the prevention and control of livestock diseases. The increased attention to animal husbandry is also reflected in the increase of \$10,000 for livestock, feeds, and equipment, and of two new items under Special Expenditure, namely Experimental and Breeding Station \$12,000 and Control of Stock Diseases \$55,000. In all expenditure totalling approximately \$300,000 is provided for an extensive programme designed to improve livestock in the Colony. This programme almost

Head 3. Audit Department

Estimate 1949-50	\$243,807
Revised Estimate 1948-49	200,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	203,401
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	175,078

Consequent on the retirement of the former Director of Audit and a member of the pre-war Senior Clerical and Accounting Staff, together with some minor economies in recurrent expenditure, the provision for this head has been reduced by \$19,594.

Head 4. Civil Aviation

Estimate 1949-50	\$634,430
Revised Estimate 1948-49	500,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	702,169
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	254,500

Apart from the transfer of posts previously shown under temporary staff to the non-pensionable establishment, the only increases in staff are additional firemen, motor drivers, coxswains, engineers and seamen required to man safely equipment which must be provided for the Airport in accordance with international conventions. A large increase of \$50,000 is necessary for overtime which, together with revisions of salaries and increments on the salary scale, account for an extra sum of \$120,461 for personal emoluments. Under temporary staff, provision is made for a new post of Aeronautical Engineer who is required to deal with certification of air-worthiness of aircraft engines and frames, as a result of the establishment in Hong Kong of a number of aircraft maintenance companies.

The expanding activities of the Airport have resulted in certain increases amounting to \$11,500 under Other Charges. Of this amount, \$6,000 is required for fuel, light and power in anticipation of a start being made in night flying at Kai Tak.

Under Special Expenditure, the sum of \$78,000 is provided to purchase new crash tenders and water tanks required by international conventions in order to bring the Airport up to specification in respect of safety precautions.

The net effect of these changes is to increase expenditure on the head by \$72,201.

Head 5. Colonial Secretariat and Legislature

Estimate 1949-50	\$1,004,620
Revised Estimate 1948-49	900,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	880,169
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	691,378

A large increase of \$211,850 for personal emoluments is partly accounted for by the transfer of Cadet Officers on leave to the Colonial Secretariat and the provision for four unpassed Cadet Officers studying Cantonese. In addition, as a result of the abolition of the Development Secretariat, the Secretary for Development is provided for under this Head. A Special Adviser engaged on contract during 1948-49 to deal with matters connected with the establishment of the proposed Municipal Council has also been provided for under temporary staff. Provision too is made for a six months' visit by an Efficiency Expert and for the clerical staff which he may require. Certain increases in staff are also necessary for the Exchange Control Office as a result of its transfer during 1948 from the Colonial Secretariat to requisitioned premises. These were authorised during the year by Special Warrant. Total expenditure on the Head is higher by \$224,850.

Head 6. Department Of Commerce And Industry

Estimate 1949-50	\$1,279,079
Revised Estimate 1948-49	1,000,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	1,220,714
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	554,370

At the request of certain shipping companies, additional Revenue Officers have been engaged as anti-narcotic guards and are loaned to the companies to prevent the smuggling of narcotics on their vessels. When not so engaged, these officers are available for ordinary duties. This personnel is being increased and provision for this is made under temporary staff. The expenditure is of course offset by revenue receipts in respect of reimbursements by the companies concerned.

As a result of these and other changes personal emoluments have risen by \$70,005. On the other hand economies in Other Charges have resulted in a decrease of \$11,700 in spite of an additional provision of \$10,000 for the printing of trade returns. It is proposed during the coming year to resume the pre-war practice of publishing trade returns which will be available for sale to the public. The net increase on the head is \$58,305.

Head 7. Co-operative And Marketing

Pending a decision on the future method of financing both the Fish Marketing Organisation and the Vegetable Marketing Or-

ganisation, it has been considered desirable to show the cost of operating these two organisations under a separate and new Head of expenditure.

A.—Fish Marketing Organisation

Estimate 1949-50	\$73,927
Revised Estimate 1948-49	—
Approved Estimate 1948-49	—
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	—

The staff of this organisation has been detached from the personnel of the Fisheries Department and the Directorate of the former Development Secretariat. It is not therefore possible to give comparative figures of expenditure.

B.—Vegetable Marketing Organisation

Estimate 1949-50	\$76,852
Revised Estimate 1948-49	—
Approved Estimate 1948-49	—
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	—

The personnel of this department has been detached from the Agriculture Department and the Directorate of the former Development Secretariat so it is not possible to give comparative figures of expenditure. In addition provision is made for a Development Officer who has been engaged on contract during 1948-49 in connection with the Wholesale Vegetable Marketing Organisation.

Head 8. District Office, New Territories

Estimate 1949-50	\$336,790
Revised Estimate 1948-49	320,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	373,863
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	150,836

Minor changes in staff are responsible for a reduction in personal emoluments of \$10,633. Under Other Charges, Local Public Works has been reduced by \$25,000 and the sub-head for Upkeep of Grounds of Island House, Taipei, has been deleted as a result of the transfer to the Gardens Department of a Gardener formerly employed by the District Commissioner.

Head 9. Education Department

Estimate 1949-50	\$5,085,335 + \$7,979,705 under Subventions.
Revised Estimate 1948-49	11,500,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	12,124,138
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	6,444,810

Considerable changes have been made in the establishment of Masters and Mistresses arising out of the proposed building programme for schools. The increase in classes also results in additions to attendant and mental staff. Consequently personal emoluments have risen by more than 10 per cent from \$3,557,998 to \$4,049,935.

Head 10. Fire Brigade

Estimate 1949-50	\$1,184,104
Revised Estimate 1948-49	850,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	1,098,076
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	569,478

As a result of the decision to keep in commission two fire engines which were replaced by new models in 1948-49 a small increase in staff has been necessary and provision is made for two new posts of sub-officers and 20 new posts of firemen. The result is an increase in personal emoluments of \$68,078.

Of the increase of \$40,615 in Other Charges, an additional \$28,000 is required for Stores and Equipment, \$7,000 for Uniforms required by the additional staff and \$5,000 for the larger fleet of vehicles to be kept in commission.

Under Special Expenditure, the sum of \$31,500 is provided for the installation of the new street fire

alarm system, and a new sub-head is shown under Other Charges for the maintenance of this system when it is installed in the coming year. The net increase on the head is \$88,029.

Head 11. Fisheries Department

Estimate 1949-50	\$121,593
Revised Estimate 1948-49	60,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	139,469
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	71,737

The increase of \$14,700 in Other Charges reflects the effect of the amalgamation of portions of three sub-departments into a single department.

The total effect, however, is to reduce expenditure on this head by \$17,876.

Head 12. Forestry Department

Estimate 1949-50	\$420,800
Revised Estimate 1948-49	460,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	513,248
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	176,000

Although personal emoluments show an increase of \$37,495 there has been no increase in staff. 71 Foresters who were formerly paid under an Other Charge sub-head will in future be paid under the temporary staff vote. In consequence Other Charges show a considerable reduction. There is, however, one new sub-head under which \$17,000 is provided for the experimental development of forestry lots in the Sai Kung area. Total expenditure on the Head is reduced by \$83,352.

Head 13. Garden Department

Estimate 1949-50	\$348,381
Revised Estimate 1948-49	400,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	493,570
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	169,723

There has been an increase of only four posts in the establishment. Two of these posts are for gardeners, one of whom was formerly shown under the Police Force Head and the other provided for under Other Charges in the estimates of the District Office, New Territories. A Woman Clerk and Motor Driver shown under temporary staff are necessary as a result of separating this department from the former Development Secretariat. A reduction of \$174,500 under Special Expenditure indicates that the programme of rehabilitation of Government grounds undertaken during the occupation years is nearing completion. Consequently expenditure under this Head has fallen by \$144,195.

Head 14. Hong Kong Defence Force

Estimate 1949-50	\$2,025,715
Revised Estimate 1948-49	803,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	334,694
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	75,480

Head 15. Inland Revenue Department

Estimate 1949-50	\$815,205
Revised Estimate 1948-49	600,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	672,665
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	311,569

Part of the increase of \$140,690 in personal emoluments is accounted for by the transfer of the Estate Duty Office from the Treasury to the Inland Revenue Department. The department is still expanding its activities and this is reflected in the increase in establishment of one Assessor Grade II and two Taxation Officers. A small increase of \$1,850 in Other Charges arises out of the transfer of the Estate Duty Office.

Head 16. Kowloon-Canton Railway

Estimate 1949-50	\$5,443,693
Revised Estimate 1948-49	6,000,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	6,050,360
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	2,095,237

The General Manager of the Kowloon-Canton Railway has effected a considerable reorganisation in staff. Sixty posts have been abolished and two posts, one of Assistant Engineer and one of Draughtsman Class III, have been replaced by two lower-paid posts of Assistant Land Surveyor Class II and Tracer. Certain officers have had their duties regraded and the only increase in establishment is two new posts of Ticket Inspector. The effect of introducing Ticket Inspectors on trains has been so successful in preventing the loss of revenue that the proposed additional expenditure on the two new posts is expected to be fully recouped in additional revenue.

Several economies have also been made under Other Charges and in practically all cases the provision for 1949-50 is less than for the current financial year. The chief exception is for Miscellaneous Allowances which have been increased in order to provide for the revised rates of cost of living allowances recently authorised. The net reduction in Other Charges amounts to \$1,026,746.

Under Special Expenditure further provision in the five years plan for relaying and renewing the permanent way is provided for. Other items cover a building programme, the major item of which is the repair of workshops costing \$180,000 which are required in order to provide secure accommodation for large quantities of machines and tools which are beginning to arrive from the United Kingdom. The sum of \$180,000 is provided to cover part of the cost of providing adequate railway facilities for the new Wo Hop Shek Cemetery which it is planned to open in the New Territories and for which a further sum of \$500,000 is provided under Public Works Extraordinary.

Expenditure on the Kowloon-Canton Railway for 1949-50 shows a reduction of \$1,200,885 on the current year's estimates.

Head 17. Labour Department

Estimate 1949-50	\$286,335
Revised Estimate 1948-49	240,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	262,020
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	138,889

The opportunity has been taken to bring the title of this department into line with other departments and it has been altered from Labour Office to Labour Department. There has been one increase in the establishment, namely, a Woman Labour Inspector.

Minor changes under Other Charges cancel each other out and the provision is the same as in 1948-49. Expenditure on the Head has risen by \$24,300.

Head 18. Legal Department

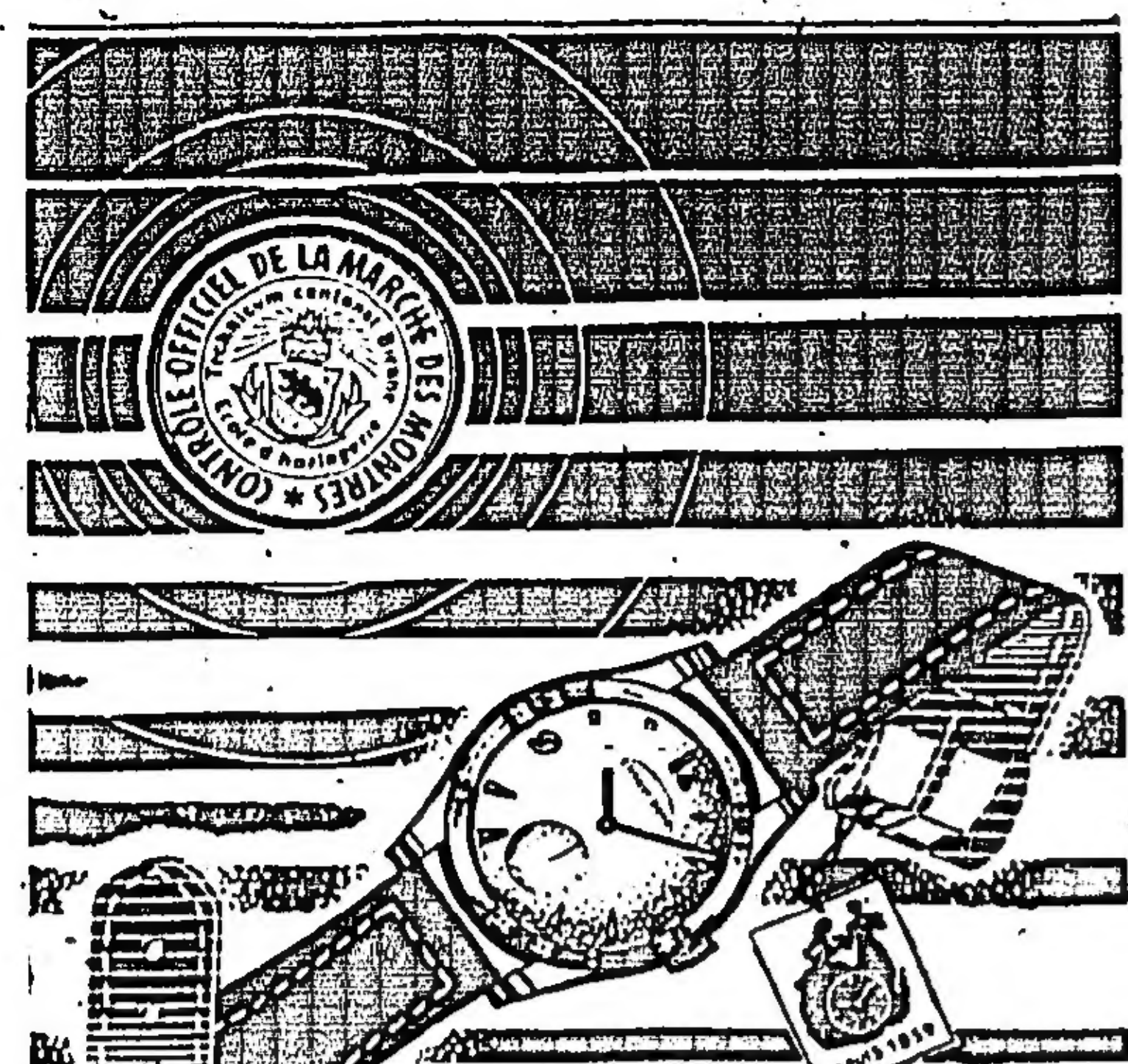
Estimates 1949-50	\$370,874
Revised Estimate 1948-49	500,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	548,140
Actual expenditure 1947-48	308,814

Head 19. Magistracies

Estimate 1949-50	\$242,881
Revised Estimate 1948-49	220,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49	215,047
Actual Expenditure 1947-48	156,148

For ease of reference both the Hong Kong and Kowloon Magistracies are shown under a new Head of expenditure. Only minor changes have occurred in the temporary staff and in both sub-departments expenditure in the coming year is only slightly higher than in 1948-49.

(Continued on Pages 9, 11 and 14)



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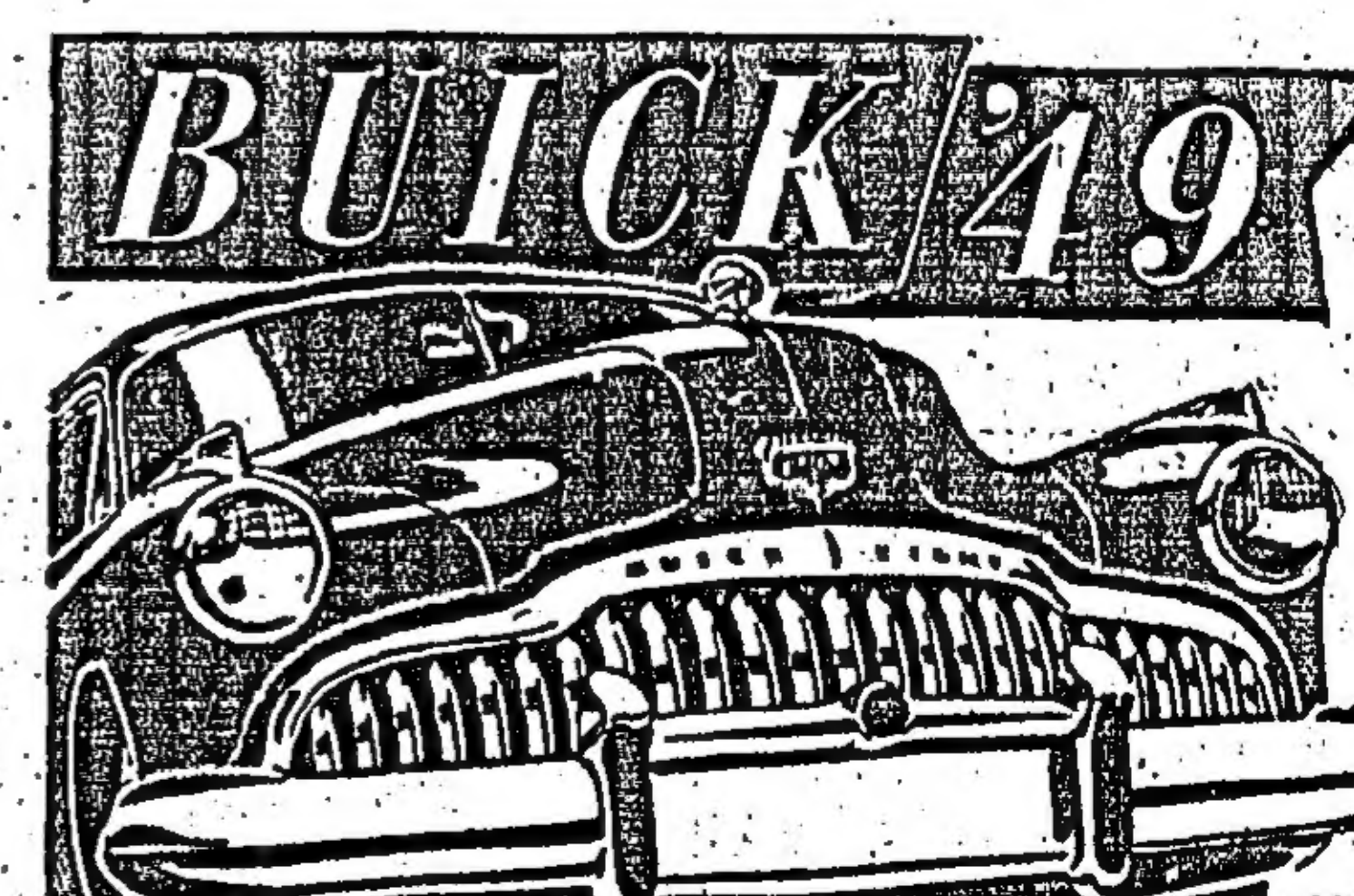
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ITEMISED EXPENDITURE IN BUDGET

(Continued from Page 8)

Head 20. Marine Department

Estimate 1949-50.	\$4,802,137
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	3,700,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	4,022,802
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	3,368,150

The number of vessels operated by this department has increased considerably since before the war. The salary of the Director of Marine was revised in the course of the current year, and in the 1949-50 Estimates the establishment of Senior Marine Officers has been increased from three to four and the number of Marine Officers reduced from eight to seven. In addition two supernumerary posts of Surveyors of Ships have been provided for to cover the period of leave of two officers who are retiring. Certain reductions are made in Deck and Engine Room staff as a result of a decision to show in departmental estimates staff not properly connected with the Marine Department. Of the increase of \$94,155 in personal emoluments \$64,000 is required for overtime allowance.

As a result of economies in expenditure on coal and fuel oil amounting to \$100,000 and on the hire of tugs amounting to \$50,500 and the inclusion of \$40,000 for typhoon damage which up to the present time has always been met by supplementary provisions as and when typhoons occur, a saving of \$115,000 is made in Other Charges.

Provision is made under Special Expenditure for a programme of rebuilding launches and their equipment including engines because some of the vessels delivered for service in the Colony on its reoccupation are beginning to show signs of wear. Most of these vessels were not new and it will be necessary to continue replacing them for the next few years.

The total increase under this Head amounts to \$170,335.

Head 21. Medical Department

Estimate 1949-50.	\$12,001,935
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	\$2,625,000 under Subventions.
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	\$13,000,000
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	15,775,248

In the course of the year, a review of the staff requirements for permanent institutions under the control of the Medical Department was carried out with the result that a number of posts previously shown under temporary staff have been transferred to the pensionable and non-pensionable establishments. The provision for temporary staff has accordingly been reduced from \$800,508 to \$272,717.

The Salaries Commission recommended the creation of a greater number of specialist posts and provision is made for a Medical Specialist, Gynaecologist and Obstetrician, Specialist, Senior Port Health Officer, Senior Dental Surgeon and Senior Radiologist. These new posts represent no increase in the establishment as a corresponding reduction has been made in Medical and Health Officers, Dental Surgeons and Radiologists. One new specialist post has been created, a Tuberculosis Specialist and one new post of Medical Officer for Industrial Health, whose activities will be closely related to the work of the Labour Department.

Further expansion in mass radiographic work requires an increase of four Radiographic Assistants. There is also an increase of four posts of Laboratory Assistants and six Health Inspectors have been regraded as Senior Health Inspectors. On

the other hand two posts of Women Interpreters and Assistants have been abolished and two Disinfecting Station Engineers together with thirteen Cleansing Chargemen and 168 Cleansing Coolies have been transferred to the Sanitary Department.

The net increase in personal emoluments is \$350,727. Grants amounting to \$2,025,000 to the Alice Memorial and Tung Wah Groups of Hospitals are now shown under Subventions. In addition there is a reduction of over \$1,000,000 for recurrent expenditure in spite of the introduction of four new sub-heads. These are \$200,000 for the Maintenance of Lepers, which had previously been shown under Subventions under Lepers' Asylums at Shek Lung, \$84,350 for extra bills for staff of Anti-Tuberculosis Institutions, and \$5,750 for the training of dental students whom it is proposed to send to Singapore on a three year course. Considerable savings are shown under medicines and instruments, bedding and clothing, stores and equipment, supplementary feeding of tuberculous patients, uniforms and upkeep of vehicles. On the other hand X-ray departmental expenses, washing, and travelling expenses all of which were shown in the estimates in the current financial year require additional provision.

The Special Expenditure items amount to \$46,070 less than in 1948-49. Apart from re-voles of money not expended this year, the main items are provision of \$30,000 for air-conditioning plant for the operating room in Kowloon Hospital and the Kowloon Maternity, \$75,000 for replacing motor transport and \$50,000 to cover the cost of providing sun blinds in various hospitals and institutions.

The total expenditure on the Head shows a reduction of \$3,173,313, mostly offset by the transfer of \$2,625,000 to the Subventions Head.

Head 22. Miscellaneous Services

Estimate 1949-50.	\$37,832,100
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	50,400,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	29,766,500
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	60,763,921

All items classified as subventions have been removed from this Head in accordance with a request made in last year's Budget Debate, but expenditure has increased by \$9,065,540. The chief item in this increase is an additional \$5,500,000 for the new cost of living allowances which were introduced on January 1, 1949. In addition non-recurrent items totalling \$3,550,000 are included. Of this sum \$2,400,000 is required to meet various charges and claims arising out of the period immediately following the occupation of the Colony. The sum of \$750,000 is needed to continue the reinstatement of pre-war deposits which has been taking place during the last few months. The sum of \$400,000 provided for occupation period salaries and ex-gratia rewards represents a re-vote of part of the supplementary provision of \$8,000,000 voted during 1948 for this purpose but which cannot be disbursed for various reasons before the end of the current financial year. Provision of \$1,250,000 for currency expenses is made to meet the cost of minting the new coins. One new sub-head entitled Public Services Commission's Expenses appears, and provision for \$30,000 is made. The Salaries Commission recommended the establishment of such a Commission and preliminary steps are being taken to establish it.

Head 23. Pensions

Estimate 1949-50.	\$6,720,000
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	6,000,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	6,013,000
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	5,022,338

Of the increase of \$707,000 under this Head \$450,000 represents pensions, allowances and grants paid to members of the local volunteer forces under Royal Warrants. This is a new sub-head. Prior to the recent settlement with His Majesty's Government all volunteer pensions were charged to a Supplementary account. They are now a commitment on Hong Kong funds and adequate provision is made for them.

Head 24. Police Force

Estimate 1949-50.	\$12,033,722
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	10,400,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	10,428,681
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	6,627,702

The former practice of showing the rank and file in separate contingents has been discontinued and the strength of the force can now be seen at a glance. Consequent on the increase in the number of Constables, four new posts of Sergeants and eight new posts of Corporals have been created. The establishment of Constables is increased by 537 new posts. In addition 150 new posts have been created to absorb the former civilian Water Police who are passing through the Police Training School at periodical intervals. There has been some reduction in the number of civilian Water Police but there are a number of posts which are supplementary to the establishment. These are required because personnel are needed to man launches while trainees are undergoing their courses which are of five months' duration. The establishment of Water Police will be stabilised when the process of conversion, which will continue into 1950-51 is complete.

Apart from the detailing of staff formerly shown under temporary staff, there is an increase of two posts of Telephone Operator and a reduction of one post of Gardener who has been transferred to the Gardens Department.

But for an increase of \$320,000 for upkeep of vehicles. Other charges would have been reduced from the previous year's total. The figure of \$300,000 provided in 1948 for the upkeep of vehicles was under-estimated as the result of a misunderstanding regarding the allocation of expenditure and a supplementary provision of \$262,000 was authorised during the year.

Considerable expenditure amounting to \$809,270 is provided under Special Expenditure. It will be seen from the items detailed in the text of the estimates that this expenditure is almost exclusively devoted to measures connected with internal security. Total expenditure on the Head is \$12,033,722 compared with \$10,428,681 in 1948-49.

Head 25. Post Office, Broadcasting and Telecommunications

Estimate 1949-50.	\$3,084,958
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	2,740,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	2,914,820
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	1,868,270

Apart from an increase of one Launch Officer which was authorised in the course of 1948-49, changes in the establishment represent transfers of staff from other departments. Certain Telecommunications staff which are concerned solely with wire-

less licensing, have been taken over by the Post Office and largely account for the increase of \$103,307 in personal emoluments. The large increase of over \$300,000 for recurrent expenditure is explained by the increase of \$500,000 in expenditure for conveyance of mails and \$50,000 for the purchase of stamps.

Under Special Expenditure \$23,000 is required for replacing motor transport, \$18,532 for miscellaneous postal equipment and \$10,500 to provide more post office boxes for which there is a considerable unsatisfied demand.

B.—Broadcasting

Estimate 1949-50.	\$352,509
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	220,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	233,054
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	201,632

The apparent large increase in the establishment is explained by the transfer of temporary staff to the non-pensionable establishment. Revised incremental scales for these posts were not settled until after the commencement of the current financial year. A News and Talks Editor was also engaged on contract during 1948-49. The net effect is an increase of \$20,149 in personal emoluments. There is an increase of \$20,000 for fees to Artists and Announcers, \$4,000 for records, with which it is proposed to purchase a number of Cantonese records, and an additional \$2,000 for copyright fees and royalties. The effect of these increases results in an additional \$84,106 for recurrent expenditure.

Under Special Expenditure provision is made for the purchase of a new plant, the present one having been in use since re-occupation of the Colony. The sum of \$2,000 is also required to furnish the library of this department with special reference books.

Expenditure on Broadcasting will therefore be increased by \$119,455 compared with 1948-49.

C.—Telecommunications

Estimate 1949-50.	\$ 970,314
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	1,000,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	1,077,393
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	615,615

Apart from staff transferred to other departments and the re-employment of a few officers, provision made under Telecommunications is of a tentative nature pending a final settlement with Cable & Wireless Limited regarding the terms on which they will provide telecommunication facilities for the Government.

Head 26. Prisons

Estimate 1949-50.	\$3,034,617
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	3,000,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	3,517,566
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	2,514,370

In order to staff the new Prison Camp in the New Territories, for which provision is made under Public Works Extraordinary the following increases in establishment are provided for one Chief Officer, two Principal Officers, four Prison Officers, six Principal Wardens, and 120 Wardens. A Warden employed in the Female Prison Hospital at Lai Chi Kok has been regraded as a Nurse and two posts of Cooks and three posts of Coolies have been abolished. As a result of these changes person emoluments show an increase of \$160,051. Most of the increases totalling \$202,000 under Other Charges can be attributed to the establishment of the new Prison Camp; \$65,000 is required for stores and equipment, \$60,000 for uniforms of staff, \$60,000 for clothing for prisoners, and \$2,000 for arms and ammunition. The practice of providing gratuities

and travelling expenses for prisoners who are encouraged to leave the Colony has been successful, but provision this year was under-estimated and an extra \$22,000 is required.

Under Special Expenditure \$50,000 is required to replace vehicles and \$5,000 is provided for the purchase of hand looms which will be used by female prisoners.

The total increase on the Head amounts to \$17,051.

Head 27. Public Debt.

Estimate 1949-50.	\$5,489,941
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	4,000,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	5,512,441
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	1,802,285

Apart from reductions in the interest payable on the 1934 and 1940 loans arising out of further redemptions, there are no other changes under this Head. Provision for \$1,500,000 is again made for interest and redemption of possible further issues under the Rehabilitation Loan Ordinance 1947. Consequently expenditure has fallen by \$25,000.

Head 28. Public Relations Office

Estimate 1949-50.	\$160,988
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	60,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	78,464
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	56,023

The only increases in the establishment are an additional Assistant Public Relations Officer who was engaged on contract in the course of the current financial year and six Messengers. These are required for the issue of a Government bulletin in Chinese.

Other Charges are considerably higher by \$52,160. More than half of this is accounted for by the new sub-head for rent of office. In the course of next year it is intended to move the Public Relations Office from its present quarters to more spacious accommodation in the new Electric House building. An additional \$22,400 is also required for publications to cover the cost of the new Bulletin.

Expenditure at \$160,988 is more than twice that of the previous year.

Head 29. Public Works Department

Estimate 1949-50.	\$4,340,180
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	3,750,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	4,248,217
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	2,487,870

Considerable changes appear in the estimates, but these in the majority of cases represent the reorganisation of existing staff in the department.

For example, 13 posts of Architects have been divided into seven posts of Architects and six posts of Building Surveyors and the grade of Draughtsman has been sub-divided into Architectural, Engineering and Map Draughtsmen. In addition a number of posts have been transferred from the non-pensionable establishment to the pensionable establishment and from the temporary staff to the non-pensionable establishment. Certain deck and engine crew staff en-

gaged on vessels used exclusively by this department are now shown and provided for instead of under the Marine Department.

One new post of Town Planning Officer has been created in order to implement the Abercrombie Report.

The net effect of all these changes is an increase in personal emoluments of \$92,045.

Apart from an increase of \$50,000 for travelling expenses and \$7,500 for fuel, light and power, all other recurrent charges are the same or less than in 1948-49. The net increase in recurrent expenditure amounts to \$8,318.

The total increase on the Head is a little over \$100,000.

Head 30. Public Works Recurrent

Estimate 1949-50.	\$12,632,000
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	7,000,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	10,779,500
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	6,234,522

The increase of nearly \$2,000,000 in expenditure on this head is almost exclusively accounted for by increased maintenance costs and more building. The period of rehabilitation is now almost over and a regular maintenance programme has been introduced.

Two new sub-heads are shown for the first time, maintenance of air conditioning plant and refrigerators, for which \$10,000 is provided, and survey parties for reclamation schemes for which \$45,000 is provided. Considerable economies have been made in respect of motor transports, the costs for which are now shown under the Electrical and Mechanical branch of the Public Works Department.

Head 31. Public Works Extraordinary

Estimate 1949-50.	\$10,618,000
Revised Estimate 1948-49.	3,000,000
Approved Estimate 1948-49.	10,938,500
Actual Expenditure 1947-48.	886,055

Sub-head 1 is purely a security measure. Circumstances might arise where it might be necessary to utilise certain New Territories roads and tracks for light vehicles, and sum of \$1,000,000 is being provided to widen them and make them generally passable.

Under sub-head 4, a sum of \$700,000 has been included for the construction of what has loosely come to be known as Workers' Schools. A number of these schools have been established in various parts of the Colony. Their development has been affected by financial and other considerations. As a result they are rather scattered and the buildings are far from suitable. It is felt that the time has now come for Government to take over these schools if they are to develop along acceptable lines under fully qualified teachers. One large industrial concern in the Colony is interested in the scheme and it is hoped that they will be prepared to make some contribution towards the cost.

(Continued on Page 11)

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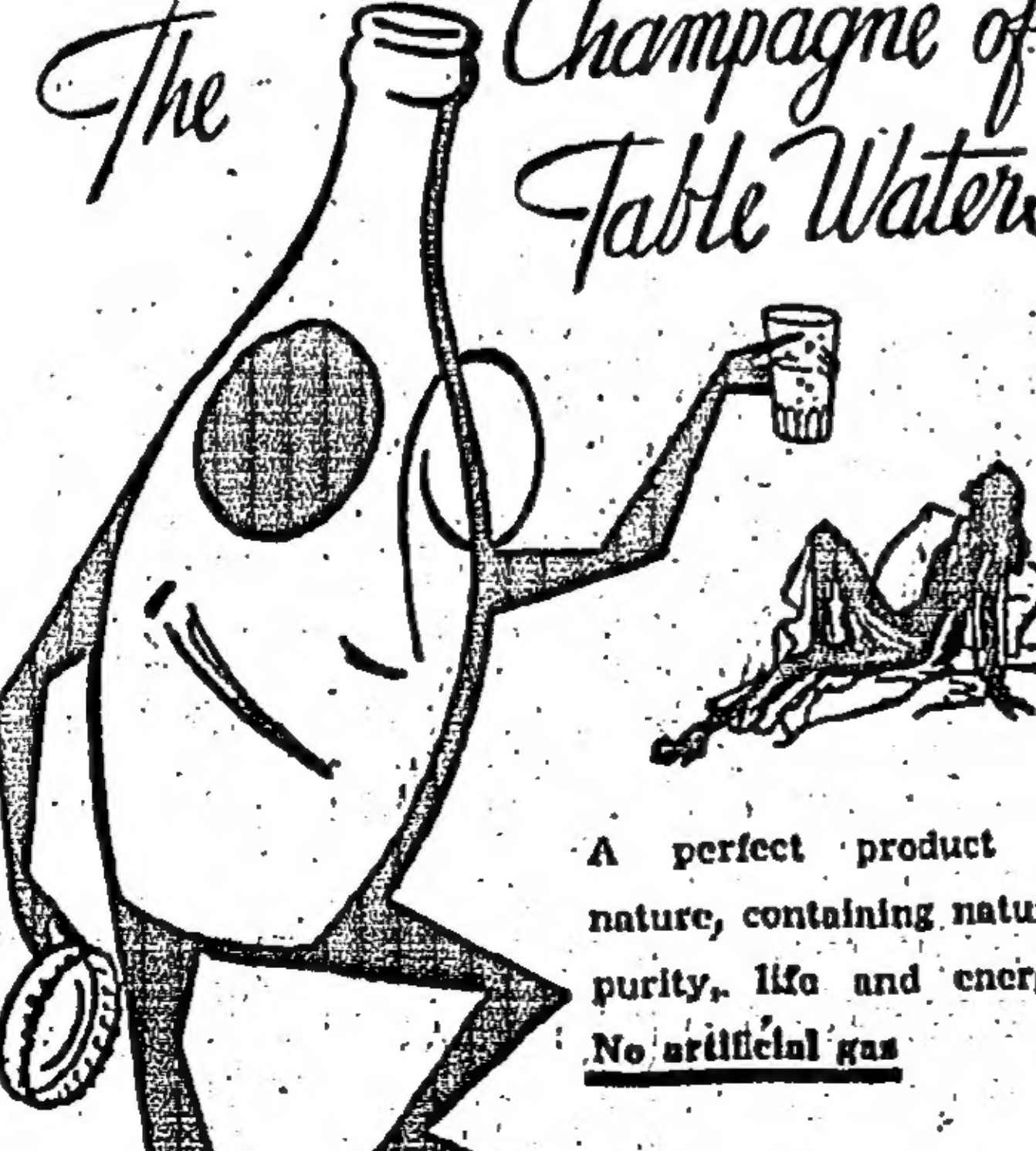


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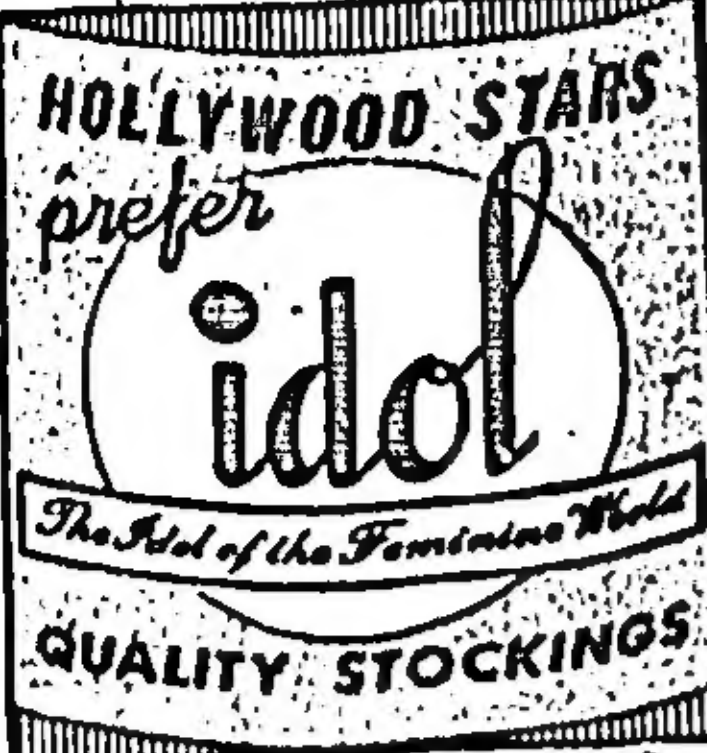
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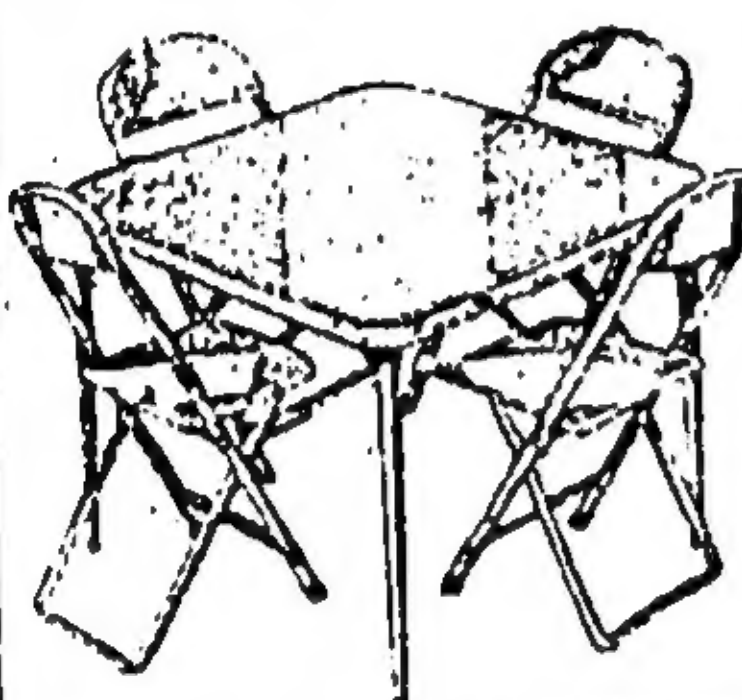
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Trouble Brewing In Balkan Countries

Paris, March 17.

French Foreign Ministry sources said today that the French Government is devoting close attention to the situation in South Eastern Europe. These sources referred to reports of some impending move by the Cominform countries against Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito plus reports of Bulgarian and Rumanian troop concentrations along Yugoslavia's borders.

Ministry officials said they had no definite information which might confirm these press despatches or indicate an imminent move. Some concern is felt, however, at the prospect that the Russians might attempt to resurrect an independent Macedonia, a step certain to encounter armed opposition from the Yugoslav Government.

For two or three days some French newspapers have carried sensational stories saying that Bulgarian, Rumanian and Albanian authorities intend to foster a Macedonian state. The new Macedonia, according to these reports, would embrace the Southern tip of Yugoslavia, a segment of Albania and the portion of Greece around Salonika. One paper said the scheme includes the proclamation of Salonika as "capital" of this new state.

Such a territory would re-establish Russia's overland contact with Albania which has been cut off by the Soviet orbit since Marshal Tito's defection from the Cominform.

Albania's economic situation has been described as falling apart since its isolation from the rest of Eastern Europe.

Babler Prediction

A Ministry spokesman said that the French Government has not received any report from its envoys in the Balkans to substantiate these rumours.

Well-informed French official quarters predict that an anti-Tito coup, if one is really brewing, would be staged by pro-Soviet dissident groups within Yugoslavia beginning with a revolt against the Tito regime.

Once such a rebellion got under way it would be easy for the USSR to send in clandestine assistance, these quarters point out. In this way it could be maintained that the uprising was purely a matter of Yugoslav domestic politics.

In London, Alex Babler, Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Minister, predicted today that the Cominform will intensify its pressure on Marshal Tito's regime in the next six months.

In an interview before leaving

Hair Stood Up On End

Birmingham, March 16.
A woman, aged 41, whose hair was said to have stood up on end like bristles after a permanent wave, was awarded damages totalling £300 against a Birmingham hair-dresser today.

The woman's sister told the judge: "My sister's hair is unnatural, in the same way as yours is."

"I cannot help it. I have to wear this thing," replied the judge.

Giving judgment, he said that the permanent wave was not carried out with that degree of skill which a person has a right to expect.

Reuter.

Doctor Was Hero Of Malayan Camp

London, March 16.

The award of the OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) to Dr. Hugh MacIntyre, osteopath and radiologist, formerly of Singapore, announced in the London Gazette last night, was for public service of the very highest order during the Japanese occupation.

Dr. MacIntyre ran an underground news sheet based on BBC bulletins in Sims Road in the Japanese camp until October, 1943, when the Japanese threw him into prison. There they asked him for the names of his fellow workers in the camp underground.

Dr. MacIntyre said: "I did not know what they knew and denied things they knew were true. I could not talk. The hardship that would have been caused one day, not think about. There were women who would have been tortured."

"From October to December, I was interrogated almost daily," Dr. MacIntyre said. "From December to May, there was intermittent torture and interrogation. For the last six months I was in solitary confinement in a prison where our rations were a small bowl of rice and a plant and a half of tea a day."

The Japanese released Dr. MacIntyre only when he was, in his own words, completely paralysed and entirely useless. Another intern, the chief Malayan civil servant in the camp, said Dr. MacIntyre returned from the prison in a dying condition, from which he gradually improved with the care of medical officers and by his own indomitable courage.

Not until six months ago was Dr. MacIntyre recovered

"INSIDE STORY" OF THE BERLIN CRISIS

Geneva March 16.

The United States alone among the Big Four rejected a plan to break the Berlin currency deadlock, worked out in December by the Security Council's "Neutral" Committee of experts, it was announced tonight.

The solution, accepted as a basis for discussion by Britain, the Soviet Union and France, provided for the simultaneous lifting of the blockade and the introduction of the Soviet mark throughout Berlin.

It gave far-reaching de facto autonomy to the city's four sectors to control currency and trade, but proposed an intricate mechanism to preserve the proportion between the issue of the Soviet marks in Berlin and in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

The Committee's report was released simultaneously in Lake Success and Geneva.

The Committee was set up on November 30 last year by Dr. Juan Bramuglia, Argentine Foreign Minister, who was then President of the Security Council, to find a technical way out of the deadlock on Berlin.

The deadlock became complete when the Soviet Union earlier vetoed a Security Council resolution, which called for the Soviet blockade to be lifted and asked the four occupying powers to consult on a solution for Berlin.

The neutral experts held 70 meetings in Paris and Geneva in a period of six weeks, and finally reported to the President of the Security Council on February 11 that they had not been able to secure the agreement of the four occupying powers to a solution of the Berlin currency and trade problem.

Compromise Plan

Their report was drawn up by the Chairman, Mr. N. A. Robertson, until recently Canadian High Commissioner in London.

It was disclosed that on December 22, a compromise solution was proposed to the four occupying powers, with the urgent request that they comment on it within 10 days.

The solution gave far-reaching de facto autonomy to the dif-

ferent sections of Berlin in control of currency and trade, with a split banking system, but at the same time proposed an intricate mechanism to preserve the proportion between the issue of Soviet marks in Berlin and in the Soviet Zone.

The Soviet Union replied with the stipulated time that it accepted the general framework of the proposals as a basis for discussion and agreement.

The three Western powers, having failed to agree on a joint reply to the proposals asked for extra time. Ten days later, the United States rejected the proposals as not providing the basis for an equitable or workable solution to the Berlin currency and trade problem.

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The Soviet Union, repeating that there were no irreconcilable differences between the Committee's proposals and the Soviet view, again ruled the American plan out of order.

The Committee thereupon gave up its efforts and reported its failure to the President of the Security Council.

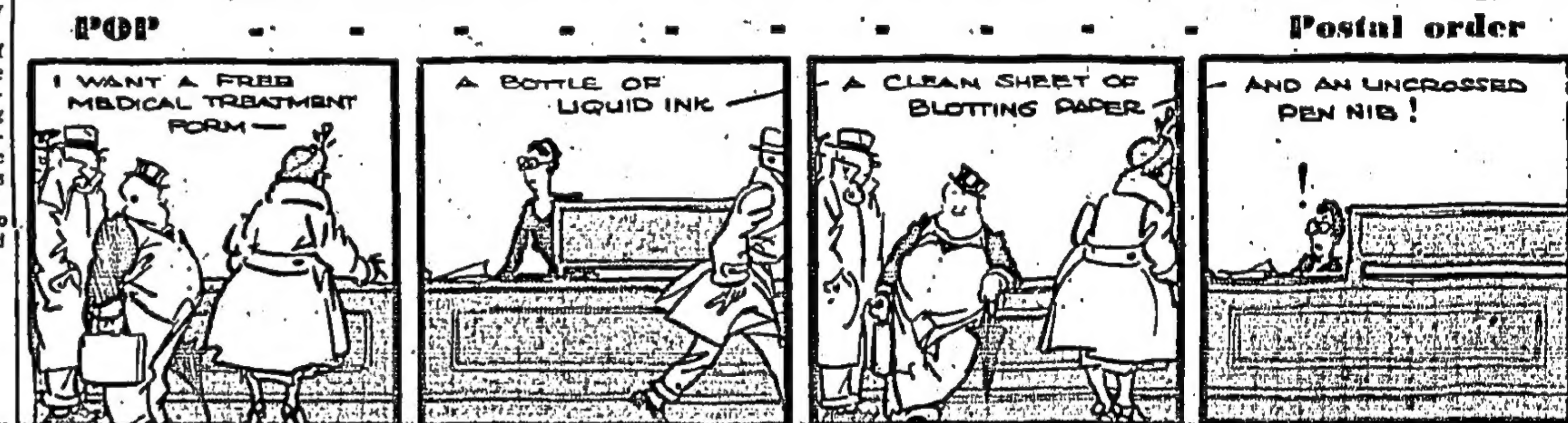
All five members of the Committee signed the report, which gave a chronological account of the various moves in the compromise efforts. But the Argentine expert, Dr. R. Ares, appended a note criticising the Committee for having decided not to try to apportion the blame between the Big Four for the failure of the negotiations.

Russia Blamed

The United States today blamed Russia for the breakdown of the negotiations on the Berlin currency and trade problems.

The State Department, in an official statement, said that the Soviets have sought a solution of the problems on Berlin through the illegal application of force, as exemplified by their arbitrary blockade.—Reuter.

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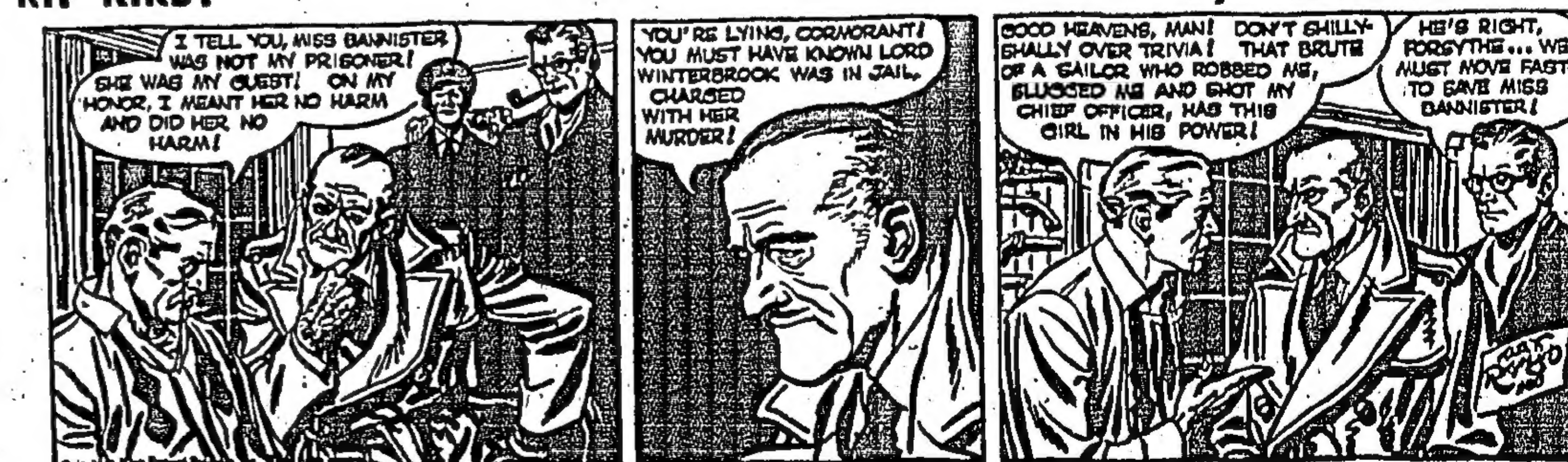
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"HUPEH"	Shanghai	4 p.m. 28th Mar.
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"TITAN"	U.K. via Straits	26th Mar.
"ASTYANAX"	"	1st Apr.
"TYNDAREUS"	"	3rd Apr.
"EUMAEUS"	U.K. via Straits & Manila	14th Apr.
"CALCHAS"	"	20th Apr.
"STENTOR"	U.K. via Straits	"

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Arrivals from

"AJAX"	U.S.A. via Manila	In port 10th Mar.
"AGAMENNON"	U.S.A. via Manila	21st Apr.

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"SHANSI"	Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane	20th Apr.
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"SHANSI"	Australia & Manila	10th Apr.
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